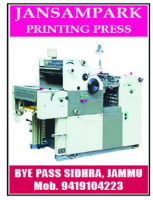




# JINDRAH IMAGES



DAILY | JAMMU | VOL NO: 10 | ISSUE NO: 162 | PAGES: 12 | PRICE: Rs 2/- | RNI NO: JKENG/2013/49471 | POSTAL REGD. NO. JK-497/22-24 | dailyjindrahimages.com/Epaper.php | jindrahimages123@gmail.com

## 3 non-local labourers shot at in Shopian, hospitalized

JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JUL 13

Unknown gunmen on Thursday evening shot at and injured three non-local labourers in Gagran area of South Kashmir's Shopian district.

An official told the news agency that militants shot at and injured three non-local labourers in Gagran area of Shopian.

The official said that at 08:45 PM, two pistol-borne masked persons entered into the rented accommodation of the non-local labourers at Gagran Shopian where the non-local labourers residing on rented basis were shot.

The three among them



were injured and were evacuated to a nearby District Hospital Shopian where from they were referred to SMHS Srinagar for advanced treatment. The injured persons

have been identified as Anmol Kumar, son of Amardeep, Hiralal Yadav, son of Darsi Yadav and Pintu Kumar, son of Sushel Kumar—all residents of Shipol district of Bihar.

Meanwhile, an official from the hospital said that Anwal Thakur with right arm & abdomen injuries in critical condition while two others are stated to be stable.

Moreover, the area has been cordoned off to nab the attackers.

Kashmir Zone Police in a tweet also confirmed the incident and said that the cordon has been launched in the area.

"#Terrorists fired upon three outside #labourers in #Shopian. Injured persons are Anmol Kumar, Pintu Kumar Thakur and Heralal Yadav, all residents of Distt Supaul, Bihar, being shifted to hospital. Cordon being launched," Kashmir Police Zone tweeted.

## CS takes firsthand appraisal of arrangements for ongoing Yatra at Panjarni Via Baltal Axis



JNEWS SERVICE  
GANDERBAL, JUL 13

Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today undertook an extensive visit of Baltal axis via Panjarni till Holy Cave. He chaired a meeting of officers and made first hand appraisal of arrangements for yatries for ongoing Shri Amarnathji Yatra (SANJY), 2023.

The meeting was attended by Nodal Officer SANJY (Baltal Axis), Raghav Langar; Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Shyambir; Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Syed Hamid; SSP Ganderbal, Nikhil Borkar; Camp Director Baltal, ADC Ganderbal; CMO, SDM Kangan besides senior officers from various security agencies.

## 16061 Yatries visit Amarnath cave on Thursday; 162569 performed Darshan till date

JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JUL 13

On Thursday 16061 Shri Amarnathji Yatries visited the Holy Cave to perform darshan taking total to 162569 pilgrims who paid obeisance during this season till date.

Among the yatries who had opportunity to visit Holy Cave included 12701 males, 2945 females, 236 children, 176 Sadhus and 3 Sadvis.

The yatra is going smoothly since the commencement on July 01, with pilgrims enjoying the general facilities ensured by the government.

Chief Secretary took a brief about the arrangements from the officers put in place for yatries including sanitation measures, lodging, drinking water, tents and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## HC sets aside 13-Year-old Judgment in Corruption Case, sentences accused to 6 months in Jail

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JUL 13

The law finally caught up with a former government official facing corruption charges after 26 years with the Jammu and Kashmir High Court setting aside his 2010 acquittal by a trial court.

Justice MA Chowdhary convicted the accused, sentenced him to six months in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## CRPF personnel deployed in large numbers to secure Amarnath Yatra: DIG Avasthy

JNEWS SERVICE  
PULWAMA, JUL 13

CRPF personnel have been deployed in large numbers to secure the ongoing Amarnath Yatra as the paramilitary force is equipped with the latest gadgets to augment the security grid in Kashmir, a senior officer of the force said.

"We are deployed for your service 24/7, 365 days (a year), whether there is yatra or not. There is an increase in the (number



of) forces in view of the yatra, and more focus is given," Deputy Inspector General of CRPF Alok Avasthy said. Avasthy said the CRPF

was using with modern gadgets and weapons to maintain a hawk-like vigil on its area of operation in south Kashmir.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Terrorists using Dark-Net to hide their identity and spread radical material: Amit Shah In G-20 Conference

JNEWS SERVICE  
GURUGRAM (HARYANA), JUL 13

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday raised concern at the two-day G-20 Conference here regarding terrorists using the dark net to hide their identity and spread radical material, and find solutions by understanding pattern of these activities.



The minister also warned of cyber-attack threat which he said is hovering over all the major economies of the world and "many coun-

tries of the world have become victims of it". To create a "robust and efficient operational

system", Shah said, "Terrorists are using the dark net to hide their

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Govt announces 10 days summer break for college in Kashmir division, winter zones of Jammu Division

JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JUL 13

The Jammu and Kashmir Higher Education Department Thursday announced summer vacation for the all government degree colleges of Kashmir division and winter zone of Jammu division from July-15.

Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department, Alok Kumar said, "All the government Degree Colleges in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## PM Modi arrives in Paris on official visit to boost strategic ties with France

JNEWS SERVICE  
PARIS, JUL 13

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on Thursday accorded a red-carpet welcome as he arrived in Paris on a two-day visit during which he will hold wide-ranging talks with President Emmanuel Macron and join him for the French National Day celebrations as the Guest of Honour.

"Landed in Paris. Looking forward to boosting India-France cooperation during this visit. My various programmes today include an interaction with the Indian community later in the evening,"



Modi tweeted soon after his arrival here.

In a special gesture, French Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne received Modi at the airport. He was given a guard of honour at the airport and the nation-

al anthem of both countries were played. "PM @narendramodi alights at the Paris airport. Accorded a ceremonial welcome. In a special gesture,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Chandrayaan to Herald India's quantum leap in global arena: Dr Jitendra

JNEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD, JULY 13

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, MoS Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr Jitendra Singh today said, after Covid vaccine, Chandrayaan-3 will herald India's quantum leap in global arena and after India's success story of Covid vaccine, it is the Chandrayaan-3 mission which will not only reiterate India's indigenous capabilities but will also firmly place India as a global player to reckon



with. Speaking as Chief Guest at the 11th India Alliance Annual Conclave 2023 here, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the Indo-UK Science Conclave being held just on the eve of launch of Chandrayaan-3 tomorrow proves that India's partnership is sought increasingly by developed countries in

## Amarnath devotees through booking counters as Tatkal registration resumes

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JUL 13

A day after Tatkal registration for the Amarnath Yatra resumed here after suspension for three days, hundreds of people thronged the on-the-spot booking counters.

The Tatkal registration was resumed on Wednesday after the pilgrimage was suspended from Saturday to Monday due to inclement weather and the closure of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway for repairs in the Ramban section.

Braving the hot and



humid weather conditions, devotees including women are patiently waiting in long queues to get a registration token.

"We have been waiting in long queues since morning for the registration. We will first get a token and then have to get a health checkup done, only after which we can proceed with the registration process," Kapil

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## NIA raids five places in Pulwama, Shopian in terror conspiracy case

JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JUL 13

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) carried out raids at five locations in Pulwama and Shopian districts of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday in a terror conspiracy case, officials said.

"As part of its ongoing investigations in the Jammu and Kashmir terrorist conspiracy case, the NIA conducted another round of raids at the premises of hybrid terrorists and underground work-



ers (OGWs) of the outfits and affiliates of Pakistan-backed banned terrorist organisations," an NIA spokesman said. Some of these newly-

floated outfits, including The Resistance Front (TRF) which is a shadow organisation of Lashkar-e-Taiba, have been found issuing threats of carrying

out attacks in the Union territory through social media, the officials said. The raids were conducted at five locations in Shopian, Awantipora and Pulwama.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Mainly dry weather forecast as temp rises at most places in J&K

JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JUL 13

Amid forecast for mainly dry weather with possibility of "isolated very light rain and thunderstorm" during next few days, the minimum temperature recorded a rise at most places in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday.

A meteorological department official here said that "intermittent

light to moderate rain" was expected at many places of J&K from July 15-17.

Regarding the minimum temperature, the official said that Srinagar recorded a low of 17.6°C against 16.8°C on the previous night and it was 0.5°C below normal for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 17.0°C against 14.5°C on the previous night and it was

0.5°C above normal for the gateway town of the Kashmir Valley.

Pahalgam, he said, recorded a low of 10.3°C against 10.6°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 1.7°C for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 15.5°C against 14.9°C on the previous night and it was below normal

by 0.9°C for the north Kashmir area.

Kokernag recorded a low of 16.5°C against 14.7°C on the previous night and it was 0.6°C above normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 11.6°C against 11.2°C on previous night and it was 0.2°C below normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

# Aam Aadmi Party protested against prepaid bill payment



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 13: Under the leadership of senior Aam Aadmi Party leader Amit Kapoor, a large number of party workers and residents of Janipur and other areas protested outside Maharaja Hari Singh Park against forcibly imposing people to pay prepaid electricity bills, strongly protesting against. During this, the protesters shouted slogans against the Modi government at the Center.

Addressing the protesters on the occasion, Amit

Kapoor said that the government has fooled the people in the name of amnesty scheme and has done the work of hiding a huge scam. He said that a woman lives in a two marla plot which has two rooms. In one room she has made a room for worship and in the other she lives. Normally his bill used to be Rs 4 to 5 hundred, but he has been handed over a bill of Rs 47,000. Similarly, a bill of Rs one lakh 47 thousand was given to a woman and her electricity was also disconnected. He said that this shows the failure of the electricity department. He further said that the PDD department is forcing people to pay electricity bills through prepaid. He said that it has also been started from Janipur area which is an IWS colony. Amit Kapoor said that the Modi government at the Center had decided to install prepaid meters across the country in the year 2021, which was opposed by most of the states. He said that if old bills can be waived off in Punjab then why can't it be

done in Jammu and Kashmir. Along with this, he said that if electricity can be given free of cost to 75 percent people in Delhi, then why can't it be given in Jammu and Kashmir while electricity is being generated in the state and given to other states. He said that what is the need of the LG government of Jammu and Kashmir to compel people to pay prepaid bills forcibly in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that at present no political party is opposing it and all the parties have become the hangers-on of the government.

He said that the Aam Aadmi Party will oppose it strongly and the party's agitation against it will continue. He said that if the electricity department is in loss then it is the fault of the leaders who have outstanding bills of lakhs of rupees. Along with this, he said that PDD should install smart meters promising that electricity will be provided without cuts. But all the claims have proved to be hollow. He said that the LG should intervene in the issue and take concrete steps to provide relief to the people.

# Kavinder condemns Omar, Mehbooba for observing 'Martyrs Day'

Restrictions right, fully justified; strongly condemns killing of a BJP leader in Patna



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 13: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta on Thursday condemned NC leader Omar Abdullah and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti for observing Martyrs Day in Kashmir.

In a statement issued to media persons, Kavinder said that July 13, has no relevance for the country because those who were killed in the conflict were supporters of 'separatist' ideology and there is no point in standing in support or commemorating those who sowed the seeds of separatism in J&K. He slammed both Omar and Mehbooba for acting against the very ethos of the country because they are trying to make heroes out of

those who were actually the enemies of the people supporting the cause of one nation.

The senior BJP leader said that government has cleared its stance over the issue after ending the celebrations and holiday on this day in the Union Territory and those who are still observing this day are showing their tilt of mind towards separatism, which is unacceptable and needs to be condemned by all the nationalists citizens of the party.

It is pertinent to mention that July 13 used to be a public holiday in the erstwhile state of J&K and a grand official function was held every year on this day where the Chief Minister or the Governor would be the chief guest. For the fourth consecutive year, no func-

tion was held to commemorate the 'Martyrs Day' in Kashmir to pay homage to 22 Kashmiri people who were killed by the army of a Dogra ruler on this day in 1931.

Kavinder said that India cannot allow people to mark such occasions in the memory of those who attacked the then Government of Maharaja, because those culprits were attackers and not the martyrs. He said that it was sad that successive governments in J&K used to commemorate the killing of those attackers as an official function and a public holiday was also in place but now after the Article 370 has been abolished, the Centre and the J&K administration will not allow people to continue with this illogical tradition where

countrymen were misled and forced to remember the traitors as martyrs. He termed the restrictions on allowing the commemorative function of the aforesaid incident right and fully justified.

Meanwhile, Kavinder Gupta strongly criticized the Nitish Kumar-led Bihar government over the tragic death of a party leader Vijay Singh in Patna. Expressing his deep anguish and concern, he condemned the incident and called for immediate action to ensure justice for the deceased.

Kavinder expressed his dismay over the deteriorating law and order situation in Bihar. He highlighted the failure of the state government in maintaining peace and ensuring the safety of its citizens, particularly party members who have been targeted in recent incidents. He emphasized that the loss of a party leader is a severe blow to the BJP family, and it is the government's responsibility to provide a secure environment for political workers to carry out their duties without fear. He demanded a thorough investigation into the matter and swift action against those responsible for the unfortunate incident. Kavinder Gupta expressed solidarity with the family of the deceased party leader and prayed to God to grant eternal peace to departed soul.

# Kashmiri Pandits observe July, 13 as a black day

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 13: Kashmiri Pandit Conference (KPC) observed July 13, 2023 as black day, as a mark of protest against atrocities committed on Kashmiri Pandits and other Hindus in valley on July 13, 1931 and afterwards. Kundan Kashmiri, President KPC stated that July 13, 1931, exodus and martyrs days are unforgettable days of the past which have left indelible imprint on the minds of the people of Kashmiri Pandit Community and created a big wound which will never heal till we achieve our goal. These were days of turbulence when the wall of trust between Kashmiri Muslims and Kashmiri Pandits fell down all of the sudden and turned into rubble. There was complete collapse of brotherhood and whole Kashmir witnessed a frenzy temperamental change leading towards madness, insanity culminating in unexpected behavioral change in their mind set.

President KPC thanked to all of them who observed July 13, 2023 as "Black Day" on the call given by its organisation and for adopted different non-violent ways to demonstrate their pent up emotion like wearing black badges, switching off lights as a mark of protest and to mobilize public opinion against the atrocities and Human Right Violations of KP Community. He said, no doubt public memories are short and with passage of passing years the event are forgotten, but the need arises to collect the sad experiences so that survival of the community is assured of life with honor and dignity. Wherever we live, we have to condemn the continuous act of terrorism and plight of the victim KP's at the hands of terrorist organizations, governments and others. This day has also been observed to apprise the nation about dangers pose to its unity and integrity. M.K.Raina, vice president KPC, and Sushji Ji Bhat Secretary KPC, have

condemned the step-motherly behavior of the UT administration of Jammu and Kashmir and central govt. towards KP community and said that we are living in a shame democracy and political masters ignored and isolated us and failed to protect the nationalist forces, in particular minorities (KP's) in the valley. The separatist elements and Pak Stoooges are responsible for the death and destruction of Pandits. The managers running the national policy have failed miserably. Kundan Kashmiri further said that let us all make a pledge that we continue protesting and demonstrating our anguish till we are properly heard and justice delivered. We must not yield till we achieve our goal of "Kashyap Bhoom" of which we are real sons and also defeat those forces who made us to suffer. Other KPC leaders and activities also expressed their views in same manner were HL Saraf, R.L.Raina, SLZutshi, Rajender Dhar, and others.

# Shiv Sena accuses Admin over mismanagement in Amarnath Yatra

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 13: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit has accused the administration over the mismanagement in the ongoing Amarnath Yatra.

Addressing a press conference at Party's Central Office in Jammu, State President Manish Sahni stated that despite the resumption of the Yatra after the bad weather conditions, the problems faced by the pilgrims and tourists have not been resolved. The pilgrims, as well as those providing services such as taxis, porters, and hotels, are struggling with various difficulties, he said.



Sahni highlighted the issues faced by the pilgrims, including long waits for registration at the base camp and inadequate facilities. He also pointed out the shortage of electricity and water, which has added to the problems faced by the pilgrims. The deteriorating condition of the roads has also raised concerns about the claims of providing better facilities, he added.

The closure of certain roads in Pahalgam due to security concerns has added to the hardships faced by pilgrims and tourists," Sahni said. Sahni appealed to the Lt Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, who is also the Chairman of the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board, to personally monitor the management of the Yatra and ensure immediate improvement in facilities and assistance to the local people providing services. Along with this, Sahni has appealed to take necessary steps to keep the holy Himshivling safe for darshan during the yatra period.

Sahni also shared some photographs of pilgrims facing difficulties at the Nunwan base camp in Pahalgam, where they are unable to find transport. The sudden increase in formalities for taxi drivers has created an unexpected situation, he added. Among those who were present include General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Vice President Sanjeev Kohli, Sandeep Bhagat, and Raj Singh, President of the Worker's Wing.

# India Mobile Congress 7th edition set to take place on October 27th-29th



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 13: The seventh edition of Asia's premier digital technology exhibition, India Mobile Congress (IMC), co-hosted by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) will be held from 27th - 29th October at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi this year. With the theme of 'Global Digital Innovation', IMC is an ideal meeting point and showcase for industry, government, academics and other key stakeholders in the technology ecosystem. The prestigious IMC 2023 event will witness around 1,00,000 Plus participants, 5,000 Plus CXO-level delegates, 350 Plus speakers, and 400 Plus exhibitors. Since its inception in 2017, IMC has promoted India's positioning and serves as a key forum for global thought leaders to design the next wave of digital innovation, with India

advancing tech industry. V. L. Kantha Rao, Additional Secretary, Department of Telecommunication (DoT) said, "IMC is a prestigious event for the industry and government. A lot of work has happened between the last IMC and till now in the last one year. This year we are expecting lot of international footfalls and trying to involve other related industries as well. This year, we are trying to give a lot of importance to what our country is doing on the 5G front in building the use cases and also will ensure larger involvement of different states and ministries. Last year at IMC, PM launched the 5G revolution, I'm sure this time in October, country is set for another revolution at IMC 2023." Devusinh Chauhan, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Communications said, "Telecom industry in India has transformed a lot over the last few years and IMC also has made its mark in the World and Asia as a premier technology event. The nation has grown in various aspects on telecom front including Aamarnath Bharat, 5G rollout, and roadmap for 6G. This year at IMC we expect the use cases should come that will be useful in agriculture, education, logistics, transportation, etc. to showcase how 5G is transforming the country." Ashwini Vatsanaw, Hon'ble Minister for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Railways, Government of India said, "The India Mobile Congress has emerged as the major technology event in the country. Last year Hon'ble PM launched 5G and India has emerged as the country with the fastest 5G rollout.

# Bukhari visited Barzalla Hospital to see Mahreen Kour, the lone survivor of a recent Mughal Road accident

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUL 13: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Alif Bukhari paid a visit to Srinagar's Bone & Joints Hospital on Thursday to meet Mahreen Kour, the sole survivor of a heart-wrenching accident on Mughal Road that claimed the lives of her father, Ranbir Singh Bali, mother Parvinder Kour, and brother Irvan Singh. Mahreen emerged as the lone survivor from this devastating incident.

According to a press release issued here, Syed Mohammad Alif Bukhari visited the injured Mahreen Kour and inquired about her health. He extended his solidarity to bereaved Mahreen during her time of grief and prayed for her swift recovery, as well as the eternal peace of her parents and brother. On this occasion, Mr. Bukhari, who



was accompanied by Senior party leaders including, Mohammad Dilawar Mir, and Haji Parvez, also spoke to the on-duty doctors. The doctors informed and assured him that the girl is being well treated and is on the path to recovery. Later, while speaking with reporters, Mr. Bukhari expressed satisfaction in seeing that Mahreen is receiving excellent medical care and is steadily progressing towards recovery. Pertinently, Ranbir Singh Bali,

who served as the Director of Finance in the Forest, Ecology, and Environment Department in J&K, was accompanied by his wife Parvinder Kour, her son Irvan Singh, and their daughter Mahreen Kour when the unfortunate incident occurred. The family was travelling in their swift car from Kashmir to Surankote when the vehicle tragically veered off the road and plunged into a deep gorge near Pannar Bridge along Mughal Road on Sunday evening.

## JMC Mayor visits Senior Video Journalist Ashok Anand to enquire about his well-being after surgery

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 13: In a heart-warming gesture, Jammu Mayor Rajinder Sharma paid a visit to the residence of Sh. Ashok Anand, a senior video journalist, to inquire about his well-being following his recent surgery at Chandigarh PGI.

Sh. Ashok Anand, a well-known figure in the field of journalism, underwent surgery at the PGI in Chandigarh. Recognizing the importance of extending support to community members, Mayor Rajinder Sharma took it upon himself to visit Anand and convey his best wishes during his recovery process.

Accompanied by a team of renowned persons of the locality, Mayor Sharma arrived at Ashok Anand's residence earlier today. The visit aimed to demonstrate solidarity and express the city's concern for the esteemed journalist's health. The Mayor spent time conversing with Ashok Anand and his family,



offering words of encouragement and ensuring that all necessary assistance would be provided during the recovery period.

Expressing his gratitude for the visit, Sh. Ashok Anand expressed his heartfelt gratitude for the Mayor's gesture. He emphasized the significance of community support during times of physical and emotional challenges. Anand conveyed his determination to overcome the obstacles posed by the surgery and return to his journalistic endeavors as soon as possible.

Mayor Rajinder Sharma emphasized the importance of fostering a compassionate community and expressed his commitment to supporting individuals during their times of need. He acknowledged the vital role played by Ashok Anand in bringing news and information to the people of Jammu, and he wished him a speedy recovery.

The Mayor's visit to his senior video journalist's residence has garnered praise from various quarters, highlighting the significance of such compassionate acts in building strong community bonds. The gesture not only reflects the Mayor's concern for the well-being of community members but also reinforces the importance of supporting those who contribute to the betterment of society.

lighting the significance of such compassionate acts in building strong community bonds. The gesture not only reflects the Mayor's concern for the well-being of community members but also reinforces the importance of supporting those who contribute to the betterment of society.

As Ashok Anand continues his recovery, the community stands united in offering support and prayers for his well-being. Such acts of empathy and solidarity exemplify the true spirit of a caring community, and the visit by Mayor Rajinder Sharma serves as a shining example of leadership that extends beyond administrative duties.

The city of Jammu extends its best wishes to Sh. Ashok Anand for a swift and successful recovery, and residents eagerly anticipate his return to the realm of journalism, where his contributions have had a significant impact on the local community.

## All sections of society suffering in J&K: Rafiq Malik

Advocate Rajiv Gorka appointed LJP(R) President Legal Cell and Chief Advisor, J&K UT

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 13: Lok Janshakti Party (Ramvilas) J&K President Rafiq Malik in a press conference in Jammu today announced appointment of Advocate Rajiv Gorka as President Legal Cell, LJP(R) and Chief Advisor, J&K UT to strengthen the base of the Party in J&K.

Speaking on the occasion, Malik congratulated Advocate Rajiv Gorka on his appointment as President Legal Cell, LJP(R) and Chief Advisor, J&K UT and expressed confidence that he will utilize party platform to serve people to the best of his ability, besides strengthening party further in J&K, as LJP (R) represents urges and aspirations of the people in true sense. He said party represents the urges and aspirations of people and it will continue to serve them as an instrument of service and safeguard people's rights. He said his joining will inspire others to join LJP given its pro people policies, transparent and principle-based politics.

Malik further said that at all sections of the society are suffering under BJP govern-



ment and all promises made by BJP have turned out to be hollow. BJP had assured the people truckloads of financial help on coming to power but instead the NDA government has squeezed the existing resources in J&K. "Union government has failed India in its hour of need," he claimed adding, the government has been clueless about controlling unemployment, high inflation, proved incompetent in handling economy and remained insensitive in dealing humanitarian crisis. Malik said government has failed to address political and developmental aspirations of the people in J&K. He stated, while various

projects are starving funds, the payments under MGN-REGA remain unpaid. "Similarly, the problems of daily rated workers and other segments of employees are yet to be sorted out," Malik maintained. He alleged that the insensitive government has failed to release salaries and wages to employees. He said, BJP government has left no stone unturned to destroy the democratic institutions and stressed that the country needs fair and strong constitutional institutions. "Youths who were promised two crore jobs are still unemployed and feel betrayed by BJP. Back to Village programmes and mass reach programmes of

the government proved futile exercise and an avoidable wasteful expenditure," Malik said adding that ground reports suggest no developmental claims of govt exist only on papers. Prominent among those present on the occasion include MK Bhat State President Migrant Cell, Deepak Kumar, Jammu Province President, Mukh Raj Resident SC/ST Cell, Sanju Bhagat State Secretary, Nazam Din Kashmir Province President, Shahbaz Malik State General Secretary, Shokat Ali Khan Gen Secretary Kashmir, Qadir Malik State Youth General Secretary, Shokat Shah Kashmir General Secretary.

## Amplifying Truthful Narratives in Naya Kashmir: Ashok Koul

BJP's Social Media Wing Sets Up Srinagar Office



JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUL 13: Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Organization), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir inaugurated party's social media office in Srinagar.

The inauguration event witnessed the presence of esteemed party leaders, including former MLC Surender Ambarad, BJP Spokesperson & social media Prabhari Thakur Abhijeet Singh Jasrotia, Bilal Ah Parray, Sajid Yousef, Mohammed Iqbal Wani,

Sheikh Salman, Raja Arif, Sahil Bashir Bhat Tiger G M Sheikh and many others. Their collective participation underlined the commitment of the J&K BJP unit to foster a robust and transparent communication network that showcases the true essence of Naya Kashmir. Ashok Koul, while inaugurating the office said that social media has played a pivotal role in the return of normalcy to Kashmir stressing that its role as a fourth pillar was key to success. Ashok Koul went one step ahead & said

that this is office of entire media fraternity for the cause of Kashmir & the nationalist party stands with them. Through all this journey for a peaceful and progressed region. Social Media has been amplifying truthful narratives in Naya Kashmir, added Ashok Koul.

"The establishment of the new Social Media Office marks a significant milestone in the J&K BJP's efforts to empower social media platforms to shape narratives based on truth and

dispel misinformation. This initiative is expected to strengthen the bond between the party and the people of Jammu and Kashmir, while also fostering an inclusive digital space for constructive discussions and progress", said Ashok Koul.

Abhijeet Singh Jasrotia, while addressing the media, emphasized the growing influence of social media in disseminating the truth. He highlighted its pivotal role in revealing the reality during the turbulent period when the "Paradise on Earth" bore witness to the sinister agenda of anti-national elements. Since the transformative events of August 5, 2019, the new era of Naya Kashmir has emerged, and media, particularly social media, has played a crucial role in unearthing the truths.

He emphasized that, once again, it is the responsibility of the media, especially social media, to circulate accurate and authentic portrayals of Naya Kashmir.

## UIET, Kathua Campus (JU) organizes an Industrial Webinar on "Entrepreneurship in the Era of Startups"

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, JUL 13: UIET, Kathua Campus (JU) organized an Industrial Webinar on "Entrepreneurship in the Era of Startups" under the Industry-Academia Partnership Series for the students of the Campus. The resource person for the webinar was Mr. Sushil Kumar Sharma, founder and CEO of Sustaineo and Former General Manager, Corporate Sustainable Development, NTPC Limited. Mr. Kumar has a professional experience of more than 39 years and has also delivered 94 physical and virtual talks during the ongoing 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. Moreover, he represented India in the ABCD International Speakers Marathon as an Expert Speaker.

Kumar explored the concept of entrepreneurship in the era of startups and highlighted the characteristics, challenges, potential benefits and opportunities that entrepreneurs face

in today's fast-paced world. He added that startups often leverage technology, disruptive business models, and unconventional approaches to address market gaps and sometimes create entirely new markets. While giving examples of various young entrepreneurs emerging in India, Mr. Kumar said that aspiring entrepreneurs can navigate this dynamic landscape successfully by identifying market opportunities, building strong teams, securing funding and embracing innovation. Dr. Meenakshi Kilam, Rector, Kathua Campus (JU) said that startups have become a driving force in the entrepreneurial ecosystem as they embrace agile methodologies, emphasising rapid iteration, experimentation, and learning from failures. She also added that entrepreneurship in the era of startups represents a dynamic and transformative force in the business world as it epitomises innovation, agility, and the pursuit of rapid growth. Dr. Kilam reiterated

that entrepreneurship in this era presents immense opportunities for aspiring entrepreneurs to shape the future of industries and contribute to positive change.

Dr. Sourabh Shastri, I/C Coordinator, UIET, Kathua Campus (JU) introduced the resource person and said that these types of interactions with the experts provide in-depth knowledge of multidisciplinary modules. Dr. Rubby Mahajan coordinated the whole programme, and Dr. Himani Khajuria delivered the vote of thanks. Er. Amarjeet Chopra, Er. Komal Khadotra, Er. Sushant Gagal, Er. Sandeep Raj, Dr. Seema Jamwal, Dr. Shivani Sharma, Er. Archana Salaria, Er. Sarvadamani Sharma, Er. Rakshit Khajuria, Er. Rajan Verma, Er. Palvi Verma, Ms. Ritu Sharma, Ms. Riika Gupta, Dr. Nisha Choudhary, Er. Vishayjeet Singh, Er. Sourav Gupta, Dr. Sunny Sharma, Dr. Zabin Ansari and Mr. Pranav Ratta were also present during the webinar.

## Gandhian Centre JU Inaugurates Art of Living YES! Course at Balgran Jammu

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 13: Gandhian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Jammu inaugurated the three day Art of Living YES! Course (Youth Empowerment Seminar) at Balgran Jammu. Balgran is a charitable home for destitute children. The programme is being organised in collaboration with the Art of Living, Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh chapter.

The Youth Empowerment Seminar (YES!) is a dynamic and fun program that challenges teens to take responsibility for their life and provides a comprehensive set of practical tools for releasing stress, mastering emotions, increasing energy levels and raising self-awareness. It also focuses on experiential processes in order to develop problem solving strategies.

Prof. Yash Pal Sharma, Rector, Udhampur Campus was the chief guest in the inaugural session. He in his inaugural address highlighted the role of youth in nation building. He focused on the need to give proper direction to youth so that they emerge as role models for the society. He also emphasised upon the need to have such workshops for laying the value based



foundations of the youth, so that they are able to create a balance between needs and desires, thus contributing towards sustainable societies. He also threw light on the manner in which the challenges and limitations of life can be converted into the opportunities to learn and grow further.

Shakti Sagar an Art of living faculty and District Teachers coordinator gave a detailed overview of the workshop.

In his address he highlighted the different techniques and activities of the course which play an important role in addressing the physical, mental, social, and emotional development of the youth.

Vinod Raina, Secretary Balgran, expressed gratitude for having chosen the

children of Balgran for such like workshops which go a long way in spiritual development of children. He also acquainted the gathering about the manner in which the charitable home of Balgran works in supporting and catering to diverse needs of the children.

Earlier Dr Seema Rohmeta, incharge Director, Gandhian Centre for Peace and Conflict studies University of Jammu presented the welcome address wherein she also spoke on the need for such workshops in building the character of children. She also expressed her gratitude to the entire Art of Living team and the managing body of Balgran in giving a concrete shape to her proposal regarding the conduct of the workshop.

Ajay Kapoor, State Coordinator, Bureau of communications and projects, presented the formal vote of thanks and also expressed the desire for having such collaborations working towards building stress free societies and thanked Anju gupta ji senior faculty for taking this workshop

In the inaugural session the collaborating partners also resolved that the workshop which began today will be accompanied by follow up sessions so that the children are able to make the different processes and techniques a part of their daily routine. Others who attended the program included Dr Sapna Sangra, Manju Aggarwal, Prabha Sathia, Urmila Bhat and Bipasha Raina.

## Preserving Dharmarth Trust temples, shrines responsibility of all: M.K Ajatshatru Singh



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 13 : M.K Ajatshatru Singh, former minister and Trustee J&K Dharmarth Trust emphasized on preserving the rich cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir especially the temples and shrines falling under the ambit of Dharmarth Trust. He said that it is the collective responsibility of people, Trust and the government to preserve and conserve ancient temples and shrines as these form a part of the unique heritage of the region.

M.K Ajatshatru Singh held a whirlwind tour of the Trust's Central Office and several temples in and around Jammu city to take stock of endowments, facilities and functioning of the management. Ranvijay Singh, Trustee of

J&K Dharmarth Trust accompanied M.K Ajatshatru Singh during the visit and also took keen interest in taking care of the temples and shrines, which hold much significance in adding sheen to the rich cultural and religious heritage of the region.

M.K Ajatshatru Singh said that the heritage that survives from the past is often unique and irreplaceable and therefore places the responsibility of preservation on all the stakeholders including the devotees and visitors. "Collective efforts are needed for the preservation and conservation of the rich heritage of this unique region housing people with diverse ethnicities", he added.

Earlier, M.K Ajatshatru Singh and Ranvijay Singh visited the Trust's

Central Office in Jammu and took stock of the functioning. Brig (Retd) R.S Langeh, President J&K Dharmarth Trust and Ashok Kumar Sharma, (SSP Retd), Secretary welcomed both the Trustees.

Trust's President briefed the Trustees about functioning of the Trust.

The Trustees also met the staff and inspired employees to work with dedication for ensuring progress in the functioning of this age-old institution. Thereafter, the Trustees visited Sui Submlti Temple in Akhnour and interacted with the general public to have firsthand knowledge about their issues and problems. After getting specific inputs, Ajatshatru gave standing instructions for renovating and repairing the temple to face-lift the same.

Later, the Trustees visited Gadhadar temple, Balram ji temple, Shiv Nag ji Temple and Kuldevi Temple inside Mubarak Mandi Complex and take stock of the present status and actions required to rejuvenate these heritage sites standing tall since centuries showcasing pristine glory of the Dogra empire that formed the basis of today's ostentatious J&K, the paradise on earth.

Ashok Kumar Sharma, Secretary of the Trust and other officials also accompanied the Trustees during their visit to various temples in the vicinity.

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

## CS takes firsthand...

larger facility, health, security and other arrangements.

He urged the officers to work with synergy and make strenuous efforts to extend essential services and basic amenities at every destination to the pilgrims so that this religious pilgrimage is made memorable and life time experience for devotees.

While reviewing the sanitation measures, Chief Secretary directed ACD Ganderbal to ensure that sanitation teams are sensitized regularly, especially those deputed on track, so that the annual Amarnathji Yatra is transformed into a zero-waste pilgrimage by promoting cleanliness and waste management.

While taking the feedback regarding arrangements and status of ongoing yatra, Chief Secretary appreciated all the stake holders for their commendable work since the commencement of Yatra and asked them further improve the facilities so that devotees may not suffer due to paucity of any facility.

## CRPF personnel deployed...

"We are using the most modern technology which is available in the world. I will not reveal the details here, but, yes, we are using that," he added.

Asked if there was a specific threat to the ongoing pilgrimage to the holy cave shrine of Amarnath, the officer said the CRPF was focussed on ensuring round the year peace.

"There is no specific threat, but, yatra or no yatra, our priority is the security of the people, and our jawans do not rest. They work 24/7. They are on duty 365 days. I assure you that we are at your service," Avasthy said.

Asked about special drills along the highway, he said there is an increase in the traffic and the CRPF personnel are also engaged in traffic control to ensure smooth movement of the yatra convoy.

Avasthy lauded the local population's support to the pilgrimage.

"We have full cooperation of the local people. There are no problems, local population provides water to yatrīs, bless them," he added. (AGENCIES)

## Terrorists using Dark-Net...

identity and spread radical material, and we have to understand the pattern of these activities running on the dark net and find solutions for the same."

The Home Minister also specified the need to think coherently to crack down on the use of various virtual assets.

Speaking at the G20 Conference on Crime and Security in the age of the Non-Fungible Token (NFT), Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Metaverse", Shah further said "The Metaverse, once a science fiction idea, has now stepped into the real world."

He said the metaverse may create new opportunities for terrorist organizations primarily for propaganda, recruitment, and training.

"This will make it easier for terrorist organizations to select and target vulnerable people and prepare material according to their vulnerabilities."

"The metaverse also creates opportunities for true imitation of a user's identity, known as 'deep-fakes'. Using better biometric information about individuals, criminals will be able to impersonate users and steal their identities," Shah further said.

The minister also pointed out that incidents ranging from ransomware attacks, the sale of critical personal data, online harassment, and child abuse to fake news and misinformation campaigns with 'toolkits' are being carried out by cybercriminals.

At the same time, Shah said, there is also a growing tendency to strategically target critical information and financial systems.

"Such activities are a matter of national concern, as their activities have a direct impact on national security, law and order, and the economy. If such crimes and criminals have to be stopped, then we have to think and also act by rising above the conventional geographic boundaries," said Shah.

"The targets in digital warfare are not our physical resources, but our ability to act online. Disruption of the online network even for 10 minutes can be fatal."

Noting that all the governments of the world are promoting digital means in governance and public welfare today, Shah said it is necessary in this direction that citizens have faith in digital platforms.

Insecurity in the digital space also raises questions about the "legitimacy and sovereignty" of the nation-state, Shah said while advising "Our internet vision should neither be one of excessive freedom threatening the very existence of our nations nor one of isolationist structures such as digital firewalls."

Stating on cyber-attack threat hovering over all the major economies of the world, Shah cited World Bank estimate that "cyber-attacks could have caused losses of around \$5.2 trillion to the world during the years 2019-2023."

He also said the use of cryptocurrency by malicious threat actors further complicates its detection and prevention.

"The government of India under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi has worked towards outlining a uniform cyber strategy, real-time reporting of cyber-crimes, capacity building of LEAs, designing analytical tools and setting up a national network of forensic laboratories, ensuring cyber hygiene, and spreading cyber awareness to every citizen. The Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and System (CCTNS) has been implemented in all the police stations of the country," Shah said.

He also said the Government of India has established the Indian Cyber-Crime Coordination Center (I4C) to ensure a comprehensive response against cybercrime. (AGENCIES)

## Govt announces...

The Kashmir Division and Winter Zone of Jammu Division shall observe summer vacation from 15-07-2023 to 24-07-2023." (KNO)

## HC sets aside 13-Year...

jail and slapped a fine of Rs 20,000 on him, agreeing with Senior Additional Advocate General Monika Kohli.

The high court was hearing the acquittal appeal filed by the appellant – the Union Territory administration – against the January 29, 2010, impugned judgment passed by Special Judge Anti-Corruption – Jammu by virtue of which the respondent had been acquitted in a corruption case registered in 1998.

Yaar Mohammad, a resident of Surankote in Poonch district, had moved a written complaint on October 24, 1997, alleging that Abdul Aziz Mirza, the then tehsil supply officer, swindled Rs 22,000 from him by promising a job in the Food and Supplies Department.

The accused, who was charge-sheeted on August 26, 2000, was acquitted by the trial court, mainly on the ground that the complainant was a "bribe giver" and, as such, no credence could be given to his statement in the absence of any supportive corroborative evidence.

The trial court also rejected the main prosecution witnesses, saying both of them being from the "same brotherhood" as the complainant were not competent witnesses to credibly believe them.

"...the appeal of the appellant-state is allowed and the impugned judgment passed by the trial court is set aside. As a result, the respondent/accused is convicted for the commission of offences punishable under Section 5(2) of the PC (Prevention of Corruption) Act and Section 161 of the RPC (Ranbir Penal Code)," Justice Chowdhary said in his 16-page order on Tuesday.

The order said since the accused was alleged to have committed the offence in 1997, now, at this stage of the case, while the appeal is being decided in 2023, it is recorded that for this inordinate delay in its disposal by the trial court in 2010 and by the high court now, a lenient view has to be taken while imposing the sentence of punishment.

"Though the offences of which the respondent has been convicted are punishable with a minimum punishment of one year imprisonment and fine, but for special reasons to be recorded, punishment of imprisonment can be further lowered to six months," Justice Chowdhary said.

"...the respondent/convict is sentenced to an imprisonment of six months and fine of Rs 20,000 for the commission of offences punishable under P C Act and RPC each. In default of payment of fine, he shall undergo further simple imprisonment of one month," the order read. (AGENCIES)

## PM Modi arrives in...

PM @Elisabeth\_Borne received him at the airport. PM's intensive programme in Paris includes participation in the Bastille Day celebrations & a slew of engagements with the French leadership, Indian diaspora, CEOs and prominent personalities," Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi tweeted.

Ahead of his departure, Modi expressed confidence that his visit would provide a new impetus to the bilateral strategic partnership.

Expansion of bilateral defence ties is expected to be a key focus of Prime Minister Modi's talks with Macron.

"I look forward to meeting President Macron and holding wide-ranging discussions on taking forward this longstanding and time-tested partnership over the next 25 years," Modi said in his departure statement.

"We also work together on regional and global issues," he added.

Modi said his visit to France was particularly special as he will join President Macron for the French National Day, or Bastille Day celebrations in Paris as the Guest of Honour.

A 269-member Indian tri-services contingent will participate in the parade. Three Rafale fighter jets of the Indian Air Force (IAF) will also join the flypast on the occasion along with French jets.

Noting that this year marks the 25th anniversary of India-France strategic partnership, Modi said that rooted in deep trust and commitment, the two countries cooperate closely across various domains, including defence, space, civil nuclear, blue economy, trade, investment, education, culture and people-to-people ties.

Modi had the opportunity to meet President Macron several times since his last official visit to France in 2022, most recently in Hiroshima, Japan in May 2023 during the G-7 Summit.

"I also look forward to my interactions with the French leadership, including Elisabeth Borne, Prime Minister of France, Gerard Larcher, President of the Senate, and Yael Braun-Pivet, President of the National Assembly," he said.

Modi will also meet the vibrant Indian community, leading CEOs from both countries as well as prominent French personalities.

From Paris, Modi will travel to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, for an official visit on July 15. (AGENCIES)

## Chandrayaan to Herald ...

where the country can make a global impact.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the impactful journey of India Alliance over the last 15 years has strengthened the research and funding ecosystem of India and enabled successful implementations and interventions to bring impactful changes in the biomedical and clinical research ecosystem in the country. He informed that in 2019, on completing 10 years, India Alliance launched the Team Science Grants and Clinical/Public Health Research Centres to find solutions to the problems of modern society requiring interdisciplinary and collaborative research.

Dr Jitendra Singh reiterated that this year, India Alliance is completing 15 years of a successful partnership between DBT, Government of India and Wellcome Trust.

He said, through a focus on excellence through generous funding schemes, India Alliance has played a major role in increasing the retention of research talent in India, created a positive impact on Indian researchers' career progression, professional development, in addition to catalysing an undeniable increase in capacity building, impact on technology, policy and practice.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, India Alliance has also invested in building capacity for research management in Indian research institutions, essential for strengthening India's research ecosystem. India Alliance has benefited more than 589 research scientists with its pan-India approach and has funded 137 different organizations in 48 cities across India. Another hallmark of India Alliance is its focus on fostering collaborations, both nationally and

internationally, he added.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the schemes have brought in foreign collaborations from countries such as USA, UK, Australia, and France, thus helping make Indian science and research competitive with global standards.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, India Alliance's partnership with European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO), has also supported interdisciplinary scientific meetings in underserved areas of research. He said, through partnerships with Cancer Research UK, African Academy of Sciences, and statement of interest from Swiss National Science Foundation, India Alliance has consistently catalysed international collaboration.

The Minister informed that under the aegis of Team Science Grants and Clinical and Public Health Research Centre grants, India Alliance has further facilitated international and multidisciplinary collaborations, which is crucial to further strengthen the nation's research capabilities. He added that the recent pandemic has revealed the need to have clinicians who are also trained in carrying out research. As a trained clinician myself, I can appreciate the role played by India Alliance to bridge the gap between basic, clinical and public health research by enabling more physicians to get into research, he added.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, during Covid, many of India Alliance Grant holders participated in Covid-19 diagnosis and treatment as required by their respective institutions and added that to build clinical and public health research capacity, India Alliance offers Clinical and Public Health Fellowships, and more recently, has introduced the more generous Clinical and Public Health Research Centre Grants.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, another successful venture of India Alliance is the Developing Indian Physician Scientists (DIPS) workshops, which aims to ignite scientific curiosity in young doctors, while promoting an understanding of the frontiers of medicine and related sciences. India Alliance is also committed to strengthening public health research infrastructure in the country. Over the years, India Alliance has supported One Health research, multimorbidity research, cardiovascular diseases, epidemiology of non-communicable diseases such as cervical cancers, diabetes, and research into tribal health.

Dr Jitendra Singh noted with satisfaction that India Alliance attempts into strengthening clinical and public health research has started to bear fruit. He informed that Grant holders' research has influenced therapeutic options for the treatment of severe scrub typhus, unearthed novel methods to evaluate nutrient bio-availability, impacted One Health approaches in rabies research, and developed tele-health interventions for tuberculosis treatment.

A key need of the hour and mandate of India Alliance is promoting science communication and public engagement of sciences. Science Communication workshops are being conducted throughout the year to sensitise young researchers about the importance of written and oral communication skills in not just advancing their careers but in building public's trust and support for science.

Dr Jitendra Singh concluded by saying that at the Conclave, India Alliance-funded researchers will present their significant research findings, covering a wide range of topics including biomedical advancements, antimicrobial resistance, infectious diseases, maternal and child health, and veterinary research.

He said, the Conclave will also delve into critical discussions on public engagement initiatives and explore the potential of Artificial Intelligence in healthcare, by fostering collaboration, networking, and visionary dialogues to address key challenges and unlocking new opportunities for innovation and progress.

## Amarnath devotees...

Dev Pandey, a Maharashtra resident who came here for the pilgrimage, said.

Pandey, however, pointed out that there should be more counters to attend to the huge number of people. Over 1,500 unregistered pilgrims, including women, who have arrived in Jammu city, have been registered so far for the Yatra to the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas.

Five counters have been set up for Tatkal registration of the devotees. While three counters have been put up at Vaishnavi Dharm, Mahajan Sabha, and Panchayat Ghar for registration of the general public, two have been set up at Geeta Bhawan and Ram Mandir for the registration of 'sadhus', the officials said. Dharminder Bhargava, a pilgrim from Madhya Pradesh, standing in the queue for three hours, said he arrived here a week ago and has been waiting for the Amarnath Yatra registration to resume.

"We visited the Mata Vaishnodi cave shrine during the suspension of Yatra last week. There should have been more counters so that registrations could have been conducted faster," Bhargava said.

Pilgrims waiting in the queues said the shelter and drinking water facilities at the registration spots were inadequate.

While 1.40 lakh pilgrims have paid obeisance at the Iceclinging Lord Shiva at Amarnath so far this year, over 53,000 devotees in 11 batches have left for the shrine in Jammu. The Yatra remained suspended for three days from Saturday to Monday and was resumed on Tuesday from Jammu. In view of the suspension, around 8,000 pilgrims were stranded in Jammu, particularly the Bhagwatnagar base camp.

The 62-day annual pilgrimage to the Amarnath cave shrine began on July 1 and is scheduled to conclude on August 31. (AGENCIES)

## NIA raids five...

Tigers, PAAF and others. These outfits are affiliated to various banned Pakistan-backed organisations like Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM), Al-Badr, Al-Qaeda, etc.

The spokesman said several digital devices containing large volumes of incriminating data were recovered during the searches, which have once again put the spotlight on OGWs as an important part of the terror ecosystem in the Kashmir Valley, which is being dismantled on a continuous basis.

Also known as hybrid terrorists, they provide support to militants and terrorists based in Pakistan, he added. The NIA had registered a suo motu case (RC-05/2022/

## Govt To Provide Free-Dish, Improve All India Radio's Reach In Border Villages On Indo-China Border: Anurag Thakur

AGENCIES  
LEH, JULY 13

Union Information and Broadcasting, Minister Anurag Thakur has announced that the Ministry will ensure supply of free Doodardarshan DTH connections in far-flung areas in villages at Indo-China border.

He has also said that better mobile connectivity to residents of these remote villages will be ensured soon and the Government is committed to ensure better all-round connectivity to these areas.

The minister said this during an interaction he had with the villagers at Karok Village of Ladakh some 211 kilometres from Leh.

To achieve the goal of reaching out to the people living in far-flung and border areas through the platform of DD "FreeDish", the government has proposed to distribute 1.5 lakh free FreeDish connections in villages in border areas, an official spokesman said.

Asserting that the Government is committed to development of border villages, Thakur assured the local villagers that their demands of better digital connectivity and road connectivity, enhancing tourism infrastructure, sports infrastructure and improved Jal Jeevan Mission will also be implemented in a phased basis.

As part of the Government's vibrant village programme, the Union Minister embarked on a comprehensive three-day tour to Leh-Ladakh, during which he stayed in Karok village, held meeting with UT and District officials to review Central/State Government Schemes and distribution of Sports equipment at Karok, interacted with the ITBP jawans at Karok plateau post located about 15000 feet above sea level on Indo-China Border.

Aiming to assess the reach of various projects and schemes of the Government and also gain first hand understanding of the challenges faced by the residents in remote border areas on Indo-China border, the Minister held close interaction with the local villagers and also administrative officials.

Accompanied by a team of officials and local representatives, Minister Thakur interacted with local villagers in Kharnak and Samad among others and listened to their concerns and aspirations. At Kharnak, he inaugurated the PMGSY road connecting the highway of Dadh Kharnak.

The Minister discussed issues relating to solar power, drinking water, housing for 32 households, cycling track, artificial lake, and tourism subsidy. Besides, border security, development of roads, mobile towers, wildlife issues, inclusion in the Vibrant Village Program, settlement of nomads at one area.

Thakur unveiled plans for future initiatives that would further enhance the development of Changthang and surrounding villages. These initiatives include upgrading infrastructure for better connectivity, and promoting eco-tourism to leverage the region's natural beauty. The Minister assured the villagers that the government would provide all necessary support and resources to implement these plans effectively.

The concerted effort of Modi Government would lead to increased tourism development in Changthang, the Minister added.

At Chumur, he interacted with the Jawans and also spoke to the villagers about their issues primarily around road connectivity, telecom, JIM, among others.

Additionally, while interacting with the jawans of the 37th ITBP Post, Thakur spoke about the reforms undertaken by the Government to provide all facilities for the forces posted at the border such as improved combat wear, armament, make in India initiative and pensions, etc.

The visit to vibrant village Changthang signifies a significant step towards empowering rural communities, uplifting their living standards, and fostering sustainable development in the region. With dedicated efforts and a collaborative approach, the government aims to create vibrant and self-reliant villages that will contribute to the nation's progress and prosperity, the spokesman said. (AGENCIES)

NIA/JMU on June 21, 2022, to investigate the involvement of the cadres and OGWs of the various outfits in spreading activities relating to terror, violence and subversion in J.K.

These cadres and workers have been involved in the collection and distribution of sticky bombs/magnetic bombs, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), funds, narcotic substances and arms/ammunition.

The NIA said its investigations have revealed that Pakistan-based operatives were using social media platforms to promote terror. Drones were being used by them to deliver arms/ammunition, explosives, narcotics, etc. to their operatives and cadres in the Kashmir Valley.

The terror conspiracy relates to plotting by the banned outfits in both physical and cyber space to unleash violent terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir with sticky bombs, IEDs and small arms.

The organisations, supported by their masters in Pakistan, have been conspiring to commit acts of terror and violence, by radicalizing local youths and mobilizing overground workers to disturb peace and communal harmony in the Union territory, the agency said. (AGENCIES)

## Mainly Dry Weather...

Baramulla district, he said. Jammu recorded a low of 25.9°C against 27.2°C on the previous night and it was 1.1°C above normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of 18.7°C, Batote 18.5°C, Katra 22.3°C and Baderwah 16.3°C, the official said. (AGENCIES)

## Transformative Policies & Initiatives of Modi Govt uplift millions: Col Mahan Singh

**INITIATES "SAMPARK SE SAMARTHAN" ABHIYAN AT BANHORE, PLIAL, SULARI PANCHAYATS OF MAHAN BLOCK**



JJ NEWS SERVICE

**KATHUA, JUL 13:** The transformative policies and initiatives taken by the Modi government during its 9-year tenure have a profound impact on various sectors and uplifted the lives of millions of citizens across the nation. This was stated by Col Mahan Singh, DDC Chairman Kathua while interacting with key voters of BJP under "Sampark Se Samarthan" Abhiyan here today. In this regard, the DDC Chairman has carried out extensive tour to Banhore, Plial and Sulari

Panchayats in Mahan Block of District Kathua. He highlighted achievements of 9 years of Modi Govt and apprised prominent residents of various developmental projects executed/proposed in the region. Col Mahan Singh emphasized the government's unwavering commitment to development, progress, and inclusive governance. He praised the successful implementation of flagship programs like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Make in India, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, and Digital India, which have brought about tangible improvements in the lives of people. He also commended the government's effective response to the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting the rapid vaccination drive, healthcare infrastructure strengthening, and welfare measures rolled out to support those affected by the crisis. He emphasized that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has emerged as a global leader and a symbol of resilience and determination. Furthermore, he also expressed gratitude to the people of India for their

continuous support and trust in the BJP-led government. He urged party members and supporters to further strengthen their resolve and work tirelessly towards the welfare and progress of the nation. He also sought support of key voters/supporters of BJP for Modi Govt for the upcoming 2024 Parliamentary elections in the country.

Col Mahan was accompanied by scores of local BJP workers, Shanti Bhushan BJP Mandal Pradhan Mahanpur, Rajinder Jaiswal, Puran Singh, Bansi Balalia and others.

Col Mahan also interacted with the residents who shared their concerns pertaining to development and essential services such as poor road infrastructure, drinking water shortage, erratic power cuts, health services etc. He patiently listened to the grievances of the residents and assured them of swift action and resolutions for their demands. He promptly made phone calls to the relevant officers from various departments and directed them to address the public issues raised during the tour.

## We don't sell sentiments in politics, we deliver services': Dr Andrabi



JJ NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, JUL 13:** Minister of State and Chairperson J&K Waqf Board Dr Darakhshan Andrabi today addressed a mega public rally of Bhattiyata Janata Party at Langate in North Kashmir which was attended by a huge gathering from the area. Local BJP leader & Vice President of Langate Municipal Committee Jameel Ahmad Rather was also present. Dr Andrabi was accorded a rousing welcome by the people when she reached the Langate Park at the site of the rally. Welcoming Andrabi, Jameel Rather in his speech

said that she was the first leader in the contemporary political scenario of Kashmir who unconditionally resolves issues of the public without any discrimination. In her address BJP National Executive Member & Waqf Board Chairperson said that after the implementation of Prime Minister's vision for J&K three years ago, peace, prosperity and development have become the key issues of our government. "Whole world has recognised the constitutional changes in J&K, but political exploiters are feeling acute pain and as a result they roam around mak-

ing senseless statements. New changed J&K is in the process of peace, development and prosperity", said Andrabi.

She said that she had succeeded in fulfilling the public demands submitted to her by the local leadership a few months ago. Dr Andrabi spoke about her fulfilled promises of establishment of a Fire & Emergency Services facility, bridge construction and her successful efforts for Degree College at Handwara. "Our politics is always the public service with honesty and we are committed to serve the people with utmost transparency. People have started actively associating themselves with the developmental and welfare programmes of the government and with the cooperation of all, BJP is slowly encroaching upon the false political domains of the dynasts", said Andrabi. She assured people about her services to the common man. Reacting to the surprising behaviour of some government employees who made all very sad.

Dr Andrabi later chaired a meeting of the representatives of the government departments and discussed public related issues with them and stressed upon the need to resolve the genuine issues of the public on priority basis.

## Seva Bharti, Sahara NGO collaborate to organize free medical camps in Bani

JJ NEWS SERVICE

**BANI, JUL 13:** Seva Bharti, in collaboration with Sahara NGO is organizing a series of free medical camps in various areas of Bani, including Siara, Asso, Dhaggan, Sitti, Sarthali, Panyalg, and Bari. The initiative aims to provide healthcare services in areas that have a shortage of medical staff.

Today's camp was inaugurated by Dr. Jatinder Singh, who expressed his support for the noble cause. He said Seva Bharti's main objective is to ensure that healthcare reaches underserved communities and to bridge the gap in medical services. To facilitate the smooth functioning of the medical



camps, Dr. Dev Raj, Block Medical Officer (BMO) of Bani, has appointed Dr. Rameshwar Singh to examine the patients and prescribe appropriate treatments. Dr. Singh will play a crucial role in providing medical assistance to those in need. During these camps, free

medicines and blood tests are being provided to the patients. Dr. Rameshwar Singh said public has expressed their gratitude and satisfaction with these initiatives, emphasizing the importance of such programs for the community's well-being.

He said Seva Bharti and Sahara NGO remain committed to serving the community and plan to continue organizing similar initiatives in the future. Their aim is to make healthcare more accessible and improve the overall health and well-being of the people of Bani, he added.

## CCI welcomes Amarnathji Pilgrims



JJ NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, JUL 13:** Chamber of Commerce & Industry Jammu welcomes the Yatries coming from different States/Cities of the

Country to have darshan of Baba Amarnath. Chamber always feels that the pilgrims should get all the required facilities whether it is from the administration or from the local people who are always ready to help the needy pilgrims. In this context to facilitate the easy movement of Handicapped and elderly pilgrims and tourists, Sh. Arun Gupta President

Chamber of Commerce & Industry accompanied by Sh. Rajeev Gupta, Jr. Vice President, Sh. Rajesh Gupta, Secretary and Sh. Rajesh Gupta Treasurer today provided four wheel chairs to the Railway Authorities of Jammu Tawi Railway Station. The Station Master of Jammu Railway Station alongwith Superintendent of Railways highly appreciate this gesture of Chamber of Commerce & Industry Jammu who always have been at the forefront to render all possible help to the needy.

The Chamber urges the government and also the general public to ensure hassle free yatra of Amarnath yatries so that they do not feel disparity while performing their yatra.

## Omar politics confined to Twitter, far from Reality: Vibodh

**Vibodh slams NC lecture on Democracy, Points to 1987 Election Rigging**

JJ NEWS SERVICE

**RAJOURI, JUL 13:** In a scathing response to National Conference (NC) leader Omar Abdullah's baseless assertions about the BJP's declining influence, BJP J&K general secretary and former MLC Vibodh Gupta launched a scorching counterattack, exposing Abdullah's disconnect from ground reality. Gupta firmly asserted that it is the NC party, not the BJP, that has lost ground in the Union Territory.

Speaking at a gathering at Lurkote village in Rajouri, Vibodh claims that Omar Abdullah's politics is confined to Twitter and is far from reality. He urged him to reassess the ground reality and acknowledge that there is no significant support for the NC in the Union Territory. On the contrary, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's influence is evident across the length and breadth of Jammu and Kashmir, with BJP flags flying



high. Pointing out the tainted history of the rigged assembly elections of 1987, during which the entire state machinery orchestrated manoeuvres to ensure Feroz Khan Noon's return as Chief Minister and secure the defeat of Muslim United Front (MUF) candidates, Vibodh Gupta reminded him that the National Conference has no moral authority to lecture on democracy. He reiterated that the manipulative tactics employed by NC-PDP leaders and PDP have failed to bring the culprits responsible for the plight of

Kashmiri Hindu Pandits to justice. He emphasized that it is only under the leadership of the Modi government that justice has been delivered and the perpetrators of Kashmiri Hindu Pandit have been appropriately punished. "JK youth will give a befitting reply to the leaders of NC-PDP for their role in pushing them towards terrorism and unleashing a devastating era of bloodshed in the UT. Fed up with the government for its complicity employed by NC-PDP leaders, the youth of Jammu and Kashmir have decided to rise above their divisive agendas and explore opportunities under Modi govt for a prosperous future", said Vibodh BJP District General Secretary Ranjeet Tara applauded the Modi government for its commendable efforts in promoting democratic decentralization in Jammu and Kashmir. Tara commended the government's proactive measures in empowering local governance bodies, which have significantly contributed to the develop-

ment and progress of the UT. District Vice-President Sanjay Sharma emphasized that the bottom-up approach to governance by BJP has facilitated better decision-making, increased citizen participation, and accelerated socio-economic development in Jammu and Kashmir. District Secretary Shazia Tabasum expressed her belief that the Gujjar community is experiencing a sense of empowerment and security under the leadership of the Modi government. She highlighted that the government's emphasis on equal development and welfare for all has resulted in improved access to education, healthcare, and various socio-economic opportunities for the Gujjar community. Prominent leaders present on the occasion were Sanjay Sharma, Khushi Sharma, Harish Bhatt, Shamsher Singh, Deepak Kohli, Rubish Sharma, Rahul Sharma, Lovely Bakshi, Rinku Sharma, Sajjan Sharma and Ranjit Singh.

## 10 - days workshop on Art and craft concluded at Ved Mandir



JJ NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, JUL 13:** 10- days workshop on "Promotion of Art and Craft" which was organized by Department of Lifelong Learning, University of Jammu in collaboration with Department of Commerce and Buddha Art and Painting Studio was concluded here today. Employment Information

cum Advisory Bureau of DLL coordinated the initiative along with Buddha Art and Painting Studio. The valedictory function was attended by Dr. Jeevan Jyoti, Director, Department of Lifelong Learning, Sh. Nagar Mal Gupta, Secretary Ved Mandir Committee, Sh. Suresh Kumar, President, Smt. Amita Sharma, Vice-President, Sh. Alok Sharma, Joint Secretary, Smt. Seema Magotra, Headmistress, Ved Mandir School, Dr. Tarseem Lal, Incharge, Extension and Outreach Activities, Department of Commerce, Dr. Rewa Khajuria, Counselor, EIAB, DLL, Smt. Sanjogita Dogra, Founder Buddha Art and Painting Studio and Smt. Rekha Sharma, Art teacher. In her address, Dr. Jeevan

Jyoti expressed gratitude towards the resource person for teaching Art and craft to the students. She motivated the students with her life stories. She also assured the committee members for all type of help and support from the department as well from her own self. Sh. Nagar mal, Sh. Suresh Kumar and Sh. Alok in their addresses appreciated the efforts of Department of Lifelong Learning and Department of Commerce for such activities for the students. While giving feedback, students very enthusiastically stressed on the need of such skill development programmes for them. In the end, the participation certificates were also distributed among the students.

regarding the implementation of bagless days in schools following the guidelines issued by PSSCIVE, Bhopal. The programme also focused on sensitizing the stakeholders about activity based learning and vocational education. Resource persons namely Irvinder Kour, Assistant Professor, SCERT Jammu Division, Pooja Sharma, Sr. Academic Officer, Yogesh Kumar, A.O., Monica Sharma, A.O., Rakesh Chobber, A.O., Sushil Hitaishi, A.O., Dr. Sabeta Kohli, Sr. A.O., Ashok Kumar, A.O., Rakhi Attri, Sr. A.O. SCERT JD.

## Orientation Program on '10-Bag Less Days' concludes at JKSCERT Jammu

JJ NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU, JULY 13:** A three day Orientation Programme on "Activities for bag-less days and details of fun courses for joyful and experiential learning" organized from July 11 to July 13, 2023, concluded today at JKSCERT Jammu. The 10 bag less days is a fun based course envisioned in NEP 2020 to be implemented in schools in order to bridge the gap between the knowledge acquired in classroom and application of the same in day to day life following the practice based cur-

riculum framed by NCERT for bagless days. This programme was organized by the Department of Art and Vocational Education, Academic Unit -I, JKSCERT Jammu under the mentorship of Prof.(Dr.) Parikshat Singh Manhas, Director SCERT JK and guidance and supervision of H.R. Pakhroo, Joint Director, SCERT J&K Jammu. The programme was inaugurated in the presence of N.P. Singh, Associate Professor, Kishore Kumar, Associate Prof, Romi Kumar, Associate Prof., JKSCERT Jammu. Welcome address was given by Romi

Kumar, Associate Prof., Head of the Department of Art and Vocational Education, JKSCERT Jammu. Addressing the gathering, Kishore Kumar, Associate Prof. stressed upon the dire need to integrate vocational education into school curriculum and expressed that this programme will be helpful in developing aptitude and abilities of participants to implement this fun based course. The programme was attended by 40 teachers/masters/DIET faculty from 10 districts of Jammu Division. The three day workshop aimed at orienting the teachers

regarding the implementation of bagless days in schools following the guidelines issued by PSSCIVE, Bhopal. The programme also focused on sensitizing the stakeholders about activity based learning and vocational education. Resource persons namely Irvinder Kour, Assistant Professor, SCERT Jammu Division, Pooja Sharma, Sr. Academic Officer, Yogesh Kumar, A.O., Monica Sharma, A.O., Rakesh Chobber, A.O., Sushil Hitaishi, A.O., Dr. Sabeta Kohli, Sr. A.O., Ashok Kumar, A.O., Rakhi Attri, Sr. A.O. SCERT JD.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

Simmering discontent in Ladakh

Certain media reports recently suggested that the Centre may consider the option of granting two more districts to Ladakh region in order to counter the main demand of Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) for full fledged status to the Union Territory which was carved out of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019. The report has created some discontent among the people of remote belts in Ladakh UT seeking better administrative set up for them. In the backdrop of the Union Government's purported proposal, Drass - the world's second-coldest inhabited place - is now simmering in anger and has observed complete shutdown in support of its demand for granting district status to the region. The call for shutdown was given by the various religious, social, trade and political organisations to send a strong message to the Union government for granting District Status to Drass. The Union Home Ministry and the UT Administration of Ladakh are likely to concede long pending demand for creation of two more districts in the Union Territory and some administrative units, if found feasible, taking into account area and population. The proposal has been mooted to counter the demand for Statehood to Ladakh which has been raised vociferously by the LAB and KDA after the Centre granted UT status to Ladakh. The reports claimed that the MHA is also considering the strengthening of two Autonomous Hill Development Councils of Leh and Kargil to safeguard the interests of local people of the region. The demand for creation of Nubra and Zaskar as two more districts in Ladakh is under active consideration of the Union Home Ministry and Ladakh administration. It is expected that the Union government could make a formal announcement with regard to granting district status to Nubra and Zaskar before the Lok Sabha elections which are scheduled to be held in April-May next year. The Buddhist-dominated Zaskar, the remotest area of Ladakh, has also been demanding district status since long. Similar demands have also come up from different areas of the Union Territory. The creation of Nubra and Zaskar as districts is also being demanded by the BJP's Ladakh unit, besides other political parties and social organizations. The move has the potential to create further regional and communal divide among the people of the Union Territory. Currently, Ladakh having a sparsely located population of nearly 3 lakh has two districts only - Leh and Kargil. All major political parties, social and religious organizations under the banner of LAB and KDA have raised four major demands including Statehood and Sixth Schedule status to Ladakh, two Parliamentary seats and employment opportunities. The BJP has, however, dissociated itself from LAB and KDA. The MHA is reportedly averse to demand for full fledged Statehood to Ladakh. The region is on cusp of transformation and creating more administrative units in the UT will further take the administrative machinery at the doorsteps of the people. The administration should take all stakeholders on board while making any decision on creating more administrative units in the UT.

PRIGOZHIN LIKELY TO PAY FOR COUP WITH HIS FREEDOM

The rebellion has raised the question whether foreign intelligence agencies were in league with Prigozhin.

NIRAJ SRIVASTAVA

THE Wagner Group, a private Russian mercenary outfit headed by the temperamental Yevgeny Prigozhin, has been in the news for an attempted coup d'état aimed at overthrowing Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Prigozhin is not a professional soldier but a businessman who used to supply rations to the Russian army. In the past two years, his company had won contracts worth over \$2 billion. However, his contract was not renewed for the current year, which reportedly caused him dissatisfaction.

In 2014, Prigozhin set up the Wagner Group. The strength of this group, which is modelled on the French Foreign Legion, is estimated to be 50,000. His soldiers were involved in fierce fighting in the Battle of Bakhmut, which the Russians won after more than 10 months of intense clashes.

Prigozhin has been making statements accusing Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu and the Army Chief, General Valery Gerasimov, of not supplying artillery ammunition to his men fighting in Bakhmut and demanding their removal from office.

Matters came to a head on June 23 when Prigozhin marched towards Moscow with several thousand heavily armed men. They reached the town of Rostov-on-Don without much resistance. Prigozhin made some statements to the media in Rostov which were broadcast around the world. His men shot down two Russian military helicopters, killing 12 soldiers.

By this time, the Russian authorities had swung into action. Putin addressed the nation, describing Prigozhin's actions as 'treason'. That was followed by the news that the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, had reached a deal with Prigozhin on Putin's behalf under which he, along with some of his men, had been exiled to Belarus. Soon after, it was officially announced that the rebellion was over and that Prigozhin had left Russia for Belarus. The Russian Defence Minister and the Army Chief continued in their posts. Commentators noted that further loss of lives, and a possible Civil War, was thus avoided.

But it was announced by the Kremlin on June 29 that Prigozhin and other Wagner members had met Putin in Moscow. They discussed the options available for the future deployment of Wagner



members, which implied that the Kremlin had not ruled out a role for them in the ongoing war in Ukraine, as also in some other countries. However, Prigozhin had not been seen since that meeting in Moscow.

The short-lived rebellion has raised several questions: were foreign intelligence agencies involved in Prigozhin's attempted coup or had prior knowledge of it? Did the Russian intelligence know that a coup was in the works? Was Prigozhin in touch with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), M6 (UK's Secret Intelligence Service) and the Ukrainian intelligence before the coup?

Some pointers to the answers are available. First, it is known that the CIA officially briefed the 'Gang of Eight' on Prigozhin's rebellion a few days before the attempted coup. The so-called 'Gang of Eight' consists of the senior leadership of the US Senate and the House. If the US knew about it, it is very likely that M6 and Ukrainians also knew about it.

Conspiring with foreign governments to bring down one's own government is a serious crime in all countries. For this reason, Prigozhin, despite assurances given to him, is unlikely to remain a free man for long. If he was involved in treason against Russia, he is likely to have committed other related crimes, for which no assurances of pardon have been given. He is,

therefore, on the run. His exact location is not known; some say he is in Belarus, others say he is in St Petersburg.

The Russian authorities will investigate the extent of the damage caused by Prigozhin before meting out punishment to him. Public opinion on the matter is solidly behind Putin, who continues to enjoy approval ratings above 80 per cent. The war in Ukraine continues to proceed in Russia's favour, prompting an announcement by the US that it will supply 'cluster munitions' to the Ukraine army. These munitions are prohibited for use by more than 100 countries due to the danger they pose to non-combatants. The US will supply them to Ukraine because it has run out of 155-mm artillery shells. One of the reasons the war is not going well for Ukraine is the shortage of ammunition for artillery and air defence systems as also of soldiers, tens of thousands of whom have been killed since February 2022. Russia, on the other hand, does not face such constraints. Moreover, Russian forces have built layered defences to guard the areas already occupied by them in the east and south.

The much-vaunted Ukrainian 'counter-offensive' is also faltering because it does not have artillery and air cover, exposing Ukrainian soldiers to enemy firepower as soon as they reach the 'kill zone', located within the range of Russian artillery and air-

launched weapons. Despite such problems, the US and its allies have been escalating the war by announcing the supply of F-16 fighter aircraft, cluster munitions and 'depleted-uranium' shells to the Ukraine army. The US doesn't want to accept defeat because that would sink Biden's re-election prospects. The situation resembles the tale 'Emperor With No Clothes'. Nobody in the administration wants to be the first to tell Biden that the war is going badly for the US and its allies. By prolonging the war, NATO is playing into Russia's hands because time is not on NATO's side. Putin is playing the game of 'attrition', for which Russia has enough weaponry and manpower. The Russian economy is doing well and its factories are producing enough ammunition. Most importantly, the casualty rate is far lower on the Russian side.

Putin has indicated that he would not be the first to use nuclear weapons even though this is an existential war for Russia. But he has also indicated that Russia would not end the war until its objectives of 'de-militarisation and de-Nazification' of Ukraine are achieved.

Russia already occupies around 20 per cent of Ukrainian territory in the east and south of the country. It would like to add Odessa to it, cutting off Ukraine's access to the Black Sea. Time and tide are on its side.

Strong legislation needed to spur forest conservation

DEFORESTATION has emerged as one of the key factors that intensified the damage caused by heavy rain in Himachal Pradesh in recent days. Forests are natural ecosystems which provide varied eco-services for human benefit and survival. The National Forest Policy, 1988, and various statutes are in place to protect, manage and conserve forests in India. The Forest Conservation Act, 1980, was enacted to tackle varied pressures that were detrimental to this natural resource. This Act was applicable to lands notified and recorded as reserved and protected forests.

The Supreme Court, vide its order in TN Godavarma Thirumulpud versus Union of India and others (December 1996), extended the purview of the Act to all areas falling under the dictionary meaning of the term 'forest', irrespective of ownership and control. Deemed forests, as these were designated, are those that are notified under the Indian Forest Act, 1927, or state laws; are recorded in working plans or other forest records; and find mention in government records, including revenue ones. The Forest Conservation Act has played a crucial role in forest conserva-

tion. The deforestation rate, which was about 1.5 lakh hectares per year, came down to 38,000 hectares after 1980.

The Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023, which has been examined by a joint parliamentary committee, dilutes some clauses of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980. It is contemplating exempting lands that were recorded as forests, but not notified, before the enactment of the Act in 1980. This is bound to lead to deforestation in the forests that are not a part of the notified forests. As per the India State of Forest Report, 2021, 15 per cent of the total forests in the country fall in this category. In another provision, the Bill legalises the transfer of any forest land for non-forest use, pending permission with the Government of India since December 12, 1996.

Forests that are awaiting notification under the 1927 Act might be sacrificed under these amendments. Many natural forests in the Aravallis in the north and those in the Western and Eastern Ghats, in the North-East and other states that are neither recorded as forests in revenue records nor notified as such under any forest Act would get de-reserved under the Bill.

Further, forest lands that are situated along a rail line or pub-



lic road maintained by the government, provide access to a habitation or a rail and roadside amenity can be de-reserved up to a maximum of 0.1 hectare in each case, as per the Bill. These areas form a part of the Forest Survey of India biannual forest assessment and the diversion of 0.1 hectare in each case would reduce the forest cover appreciably. Contrarily, if already notified, these areas can't be touched under the prevailing Act or amended Bill, bringing dichotomy in two similar situations.

Allowing zoos in forest areas without attracting the provisions of de-reservation rather than

near cities, where required, is a regressive step when forests are required and managed for free-moving wildlife. The exploitation of minerals allowed now, without forest diversion, is regressive when it requires the use of heavy machinery that would cause degradation.

The amendments lift many restrictions for the diversion of forest land by loosely using the terms security, border-related infrastructure and public utility purposes.

The Bill commits to bringing one-third of the land area under forests, creating a carbon sink of an additional 2.5 to 3 billion

tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2030 and undertaking ecologically balanced sustainable development to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070. These commitments of the government would get compromised through the implementation regime that would come up due to the proposed Bill. It is a fact that carbon neutrality cannot be brought by easing forest diversion and allowing increased felling of trees. The forest cover of the country is about 24 per cent and is envisioned to be raised to 33 per cent by 2030. But can such a deregulated regime assist in achieving

this and the targeted carbon sink and net-zero emissions?

These exemptions are also contrary to the National Forest Policy, 1988, the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, and the Directive Principles of State Policy to safeguard forests and wildlife. The emphasis of the amendments in the proposed Bill is more towards unlocking forest land for commercial purposes, even undermining the livelihoods and other rights of the communities dependent on forests. It is bound to trigger deforestation and a fragmentation of the existing forests, inflicting irreparable damage to biodiversity and, hence, to the eco-services that the forests provide.

The crux of the problem is that there is no definition of the term 'forest' in the legislative or executive framework of the country. Efforts made at the national level and by delegating this authority to the states have not yielded any result. The 1927 Act does not define a 'forest' but classifies these as reserved or protected forests, based on the process followed for their notification. State revenue departments consider an area as a forest if it is recorded as such in the revenue record, with trees or otherwise. Many notified forests under the 1927 Act do not find a

place in this record. The Forest Survey of India defines and classifies forests based on the existing forest cover as very dense (above 70 per cent), moderately dense (40-70 per cent), open (10-40 per cent) and scrub (less than 10 per cent). These may or may not be notified and may or may not find mention in revenue records. Consequently, there is a need to define the term 'forest' so that it is applicable uniformly to all areas based on land use, canopy cover/crown density, height of trees, nature of species and the prevalent biodiversity that the forests are known for. Natural grasslands, pastures, deserts, water bodies, wetlands, geomorphic features and glaciers in their natural habitat, working as a natural ecosystem, can also be included. This definition can be notified under the 1927 Act, adopted in other Acts and rules wherever required and applied uniformly. This would prevent playing with forest resources every now and then.

Such a definition would bridge the contradictions, bring uniformity and help in the conservation of forests by utilising their socio-economic and environmental potential for tackling the menace of climatic change and other environmental and natural hazards.

# 4 essential food pairings for optimal nutrient absorption, from a vegan dietitian

We all seem to be looking for more ways to get the nutrients our bodies need, but nutrient intake is so much more than just the foods we eat.

Even if you're eating foods that are high in the nutrients you're aiming to increase in your diet — like calcium, iron and antioxidants — depending on how the foods are paired, you may be getting less nutrients than you think.

Multiple factors go into how your body absorbs food, according to Catherine Perez, a vegan dietitian.

"Regardless of your dietary choices, your ability to absorb nutrients is going to kind of change throughout your life cycle," she says.

As children, you needed more nutrients than adults because your lifestyle required more energy, she notes.

And when you're older, your body won't digest certain vitamins like B12 as well as others,

because your stomach acid decreases as you age.

But for vegans and vegetarians specifically, "certain plant-based foods have different absorbability rates, and those can change, depending on how you treat those foods and even what you might be eating those foods with," she says.

Luckily, there are certain nutrients that, when paired together, can increase your ability to absorb them. Here are a few that Perez recommends having at the same time.

4 essential food pairings for optimal nutrient absorption

1. Pair iron with vitamin C

Iron deficiency is a huge concern for people on a plant-based diet, says Perez. Plant-based sources of iron are more absorbable when you pair them with something that's high in vitamin C, she says.

For example, consider eating a burrito with beans, which are



high in iron, and diced bell peppers, which have a healthy serving of vitamin C.

2. Incorporate zinc in your diet with sulfur

"Zinc is another nutrient that tends to be a concern for those looking to go plant-based," says Perez. Found in grains, seeds and legumes like chickpeas, zinc can be better absorbed when paired with sulfur.

You may already be cooking your chickpeas with sources of sulfur like onions and garlic, and that's making your zinc absorption even better.

3. Eat your antioxidants with fats and fat-soluble vitamins

Absorbing antioxidants on a vegan diet can be a bit tricky. So, to ensure you're absorbing them properly, you should cook tomatoes, that are rich in the antioxi-

dant lycopene, with fats like olive oil, says Perez.

"If you're making a tomato sauce and you're using extra virgin olive oil with the tomatoes and cooking them down, that's going to help you activate and absorb lycopene a lot better than if you didn't have that fat there at all," she says.

4. Have your calcium with vitamin D

Bone health is vital for everyone, even those who aren't vegan, and calcium is helpful for strengthening your bones. "When you have those calcium-rich foods and you have enough vitamin D in your diet, your body is going to be able to absorb it better," says Perez.

Pair calcium-rich sources like soy milk, almond milk or plant-based yogurts with a walk outside, because the source of vitamin D from sunlight can help you better absorb the calcium.

## The best thing about the Mediterranean diet? It doesn't taste like a diet

Olive oil — maybe not your mom's — is a good place to start, says Chan School's Walter Willett. But don't be afraid to experiment.



For people focused on healthy eating in the new year, advice from specialists (and, problematically, non-specialists) can be hard to decipher, never mind follow. But one diet in particular has withstood the test of time and been repeatedly heralded by doctors and researchers as promoting vitality and longevity.

The Mediterranean diet, identified in the 1950s through a global study of men's heart health, is a pattern of eating based on the habits of Italians, Greeks, and others who live in the region. The regimen favors healthy fats such as those found in olive oil and nuts and sets limits on consumption of animal products.

Walter Willett, a professor of epidemiology and nutrition at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, has spent more than three decades studying links between food and health, with special attention to the Mediterranean diet, around which, he says, "there are a lot of misconceptions." In a conversation with the Gazette, edited for clarity and length, he cleared some of them up.

WILLETT: Well, there's quite a bit of flexibility — that's probably one of the reasons people can stay with it for the long run.

A general rule of thumb is to think about having two servings of animal-sourced foods per day, which would be about one serving of dairy a day and about one serving of another animal-sourced protein. This could mean having red meat about once a week, fish a couple of times a week, poultry a couple of times a week, and eggs a couple of times a week. That's a pretty good goal. If someone would like to further reduce animal-sourced foods or be a strict vegan, that can also work, but taking an inexpensive multivitamin/multimineral supplement is desirable to ensure adequate micronutrient intake.

While this would be an appreciable shift for many Americans, it's not difficult because most of the ingredients are foods that are already familiar. Although I should say that 25 years ago, many people were not very familiar with whole grains. And most people were not familiar with good olive oil. I remember growing up in Michigan, my mom had this little bottle of olive oil up on the shelf that had been sitting there for years; it was rancid and tasted terrible. Adopting the Mediterranean dietary pattern is likely to mean some adjustments and new flavors, but in general, they're things that most people can find enjoyable.

In terms of the percentage of calories from fat, this can vary but will usually be about 30 percent to 40 percent of calories, as long as they're mostly healthy fats from plant sources such as olive oil.

Walter Willett, professor of epidemiology and nutrition

# For weight loss, how much you eat is more important than when you eat

A new study led by researchers from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine has followed the meal-time habits of more than 500 people for six years finding weight change is most affected by the size and frequency of meals rather than the interval from first to last meal. The study challenges the popular trend of intermittent fasting as a useful weight loss strategy. Intermittent fasting, also referred to as time-restricted feeding, is a dietary strategy where all meals are consumed during a short window of time each day. These windows can span anywhere from six to 10 hours, resulting in a person essentially fasting for up to 18 hours each day.

Micro-cabin with rock-like fish blends into a French forest.

From a weight-loss perspective, there has been plenty of debate over whether intermittent fasting techniques are effective because they trigger genuine metabolic changes or whether they simply make it easier for a person to just eat less food. A study published last year, for example, found similar weight loss outcomes between time-restricted feeders and all-day eaters when both groups were given the same calorie-controlled dietary limits. Another earlier intermittent fasting study with no dietary direc-

tions saw participants who were limited to eating only during an eight-hour period each day instinctively reduce their caloric intake by around 300 calories a day.

This new study took a different

approach at investigating the subject. Instead of directing the nearly 550 participants to follow a specific pattern of eating, the researchers simply tracked daily meal times and sizes, and correlated them with weight loss

patterns over a six-year period.

Each participant in the study used a smartphone app to record sleep, wake and meal times across several week-long stretches. This enabled the researchers to track the

wake-up to first meal and time from last meal to sleep. The findings revealed there was no link between the time of a person's eating window each day and weight changes over the six-year follow-up. So it didn't make much of a difference to weight loss if a person ate all their meals each day across a shorter window versus a longer window. Speaking to media, lead investigator on the study Wendy Bennett said there were no signals in the data to suggest compressing one's meals into a small window each day plays a role in weight loss.

"Based on other studies that have

meals a person ate over the course of the day. So instead of there being a potential metabolic reason for any weight-loss benefits to time-restricted feeding, these findings suggest simply eating smaller meals, less frequently, is what ultimately leads to weight loss.

"Although experimental studies have suggested that time-restricted eating could improve circadian rhythms and play a role in metabolic regulation, our study did not detect an association in a population with a wide range of body weights," the researchers write in the study. "Importantly, we found an association between the eating of more frequent and larger meals per day and weight increase, indicating that total overall caloric intake is the major driver of weight gain."

All of this, of course, doesn't mean intermittent fasting strategies won't help someone lose weight.

But what does seem increasingly clear is that the weight loss benefits occasionally seen with these eating strategies may be primarily driven by a reduced caloric intake. And intermittent fasting certainly can be a useful way to help someone better control their caloric intake but it doesn't mean you can simply eat all you want in a short six or eight-hour window each day and still expect to lose weight.

What did make a difference to weight, however, was the total number of medium and large



# Why mothers in Gujarat are feeding nutritious rations meant for children to cows

When 28-year-old Ekta Chawda was pregnant last year, the local anganwadi in Pamol village, an hour's ride from Vadodra, gave her three packets containing a soft white mixture every month. Each 1.5kg packet of the mixture, made up of wheat, gram flour, soyabean flour, sugar, oil, rice, and maize, was protein and nutrient-rich. Chawda would add ghee to the mixture to cook a sweet dish — sheera — or make theplas, both commonly consumed in Gujarat. "I never liked the taste, but I ate it," she said.

With Chawda's family engaged in farm labour, there was little money to spend on food while she was pregnant, and the food mixture distributed by the anganwadi filled a vital nutrition gap. Local anganwadi centres, under the state's women and child development department, provide care and nutrition for children under six years of age, and pregnant and lactating women.

After Chawda's delivery, the anganwadi began providing a similar packet — called Balshakti

— for her six-month-old son. But Chawda's son, now a year old, spits out any food cooked using the mixture. Chawda said she told the anganwadi worker to stop giving her the food ration packets, but to no avail. "She says take the packet and do whatever you want," said Chawda.

Chawda now dumps the contents into a neighbour's cattle feed container. "I tried, [but] my son does not like the taste," she said.

Several rounds of the National Family Health Survey data have shown that Gujarat's nutrition levels are worrying, especially among children. Since 2019, the Gujarat government has been handing out these ready-to-cook rations of energy-dense, micronutrient-fortified food to children, teenage girls, and pregnant and lactating mothers.

Gujarat has over 53 lakh beneficiaries under the anganwadis. In 2020-'21, the government provided take-home rations of the food mixture to 38.18 lakh beneficiaries. It also made an annual budgetary pro-



vision of Rs 723.4 crore for the take-home rations and hot, cooked meals. It was not clear how much was allocated separately for the food mixture packets.

But, going by ground reports and feedback from anganwadis, children find the nutrient-rich food packets unappetising, posing a challenge for the state.

Sunita Macwan, a health activist with the non-profit Kaira Social Service Society that

works on health and women's issues, said that despite the feedback, the government is intent on continuing with the take-home rations. "So much money is being wasted on procuring it," she said. "The government knows that women throw away the rations."

Ekta Chawda with her son at Pamol village. Credit: Tabassum Barnagarwala.

"At least, cattle are getting healthy"

but gave up a few days later and fed the contents to her cow. "At least the cattle are getting healthy," she said.

Madhuben Chawda, who owns a cow and a buffalo in the same village, has stopped buying fodder since several villagers give away the food rations to her cattle. Her granddaughter, now four years old, too prefers hot meals at the anganwadi, like other children in the village.

Rushida Chawda, aged 37, has two children enrolled in the anganwadi. When the anganwadi workers counselled her about the benefits of the fortified food mixture, she made chapatis and sheera for her son. "He ate it initially," she said. "But his weight did not increase," she said. Later, he began vomiting the food. Her elder daughter, who is five years old, eats at the anganwadi as well.

KK Nirala, secretary in the state's women and child development department, said the fortified food packets were meant to supplement a child's diet. Worsening trend

The fifth round of the National Family Health Survey conducted in 2019-'21 showed that in Gujarat, 25.1% of the surveyed children under the age of five suffered from wasting, or were too thin for their height. This was much worse than the national average of 19.3%. That's not all. Gujarat's performance on this count has gotten worse. The third round of the National Family Health Survey conducted in 2005-'06 found that 19% of the children under the age of five in the state suffered from wasting.

In 2019-'21, Gujarat's numbers for stunting — when children are too short for their age — stood at 39% among children under the age of five, compared to the national average of 35%. Also, nearly 40% of children under five years of age were underweight, compared to 32% at the national level.

While India's national averages for stunting, wasting and underweight children have improved compared to the previous surveys, Gujarat's numbers have shown little change or worsened.

## Jal Shakti Deptt organises workshop on Source Sustainability

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JULY 13: Jal Shakti Department today organised a day-long workshop on 'Source Sustainability with special emphasis on Spring Rejuvenation' in collaboration with Piramal Foundation at Institute of Hotel Management Srinagar.

The event brought together leading experts from government, academia, social organisations who presented and discussed research on source sustainability, spring rejuvenation, water quality among other issues. The aim of the workshop was to sensitise about the need for emerging water problems and frame strategies to overcome those.

During the workshop there was broad consensus among the speakers that 'Source Sustainability and spring rejuvenation' is one of the biggest challenges faced by today's society and the solutions to achieve sustainability need to be designed from a holistic, cross-disciplinary point of view.

### DC presides over Career Counseling/ Drug De-addiction program at GHSS Bandipora

Play the role of Ambassadors for drug de-addiction: Dr. Owais to Students

JI NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, JULY 13: Sir Syed Educational Trust in collaboration with District Administration Bandipora today organised a career counseling cum drug de-addiction programme for the students of different academic institutions of zone Bandipora at Government Girls Higher Secondary School Bandipora.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad was the chief guest on the occasion. The program was organised with reference to admission opportunities in different universities/institutions of the country and abroad. On the occasion, the students were made aware about the impact of drug addiction on physical and mental health and social ramifications of indulging in drug menace.

The DC on the occasion highlighted the significance and need of career counseling in the current scenario. He said that youth should take their career on priority and should stay away from drug addiction while playing the role of Ambassadors of drug de-addiction. During the programme, experts from diverse fields including Education, Health, Bio-science, Banking, Civil Administration, Judiciary, Fisheries, and Agriculture delivered their presentations. Medical staff clinics were also installed by the department of Health in the school compound for a thorough checkup of the students.

Charter of demand was presented to DC Bandipora by the school of the institute. Officers from different departments deliberated on career opportunities for students in terms of higher studies, government and private jobs, and entrepreneurship.

Among others, ADC Umar Shaif Pandit, JD Planning Intiyaz Ahmad and CEO Mohammad Amin Beigh were also present.

## DC Ramban reviews preparedness for Intensified Mission Indhradhanush (IMI) 5.0

JI NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, JULY 13: Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Musarrat Islam today chaired District Task Force meeting to review preparedness for implementation of Intensified Mission Indhradhanush (IMI) 5.0, besides discussing different aspects related to execution of the road map formulated by the Government for Measles, Rubella elimination in the district.

The meeting was attended by PO ICDS, Jhangir Hashmi, CMO,

Dr Kamal Zadoo; CEO, Devanand; Medical Superintendent DH, Dr Virender; Dy.CMO, Dr. Gurmeet Kour; District Immunization Officer, Dr Bashir Ahmed; WHO, SMO Jammu division, Dr Azmat Khan, BMOs and other officers of concerned departments.

The District Task Force has scheduled to conduct three rounds of Intensified Mission Indhradhanush (IMI) 5.0 and each round of IMI 2023 will be spread over 6 working days i.e., including Routine Immunization (RI)

days. RI session plan will not be disturbed, and additional sessions should be planned in high risk areas not covered by RI.

The meeting was informed that the 1st round of IMI will be organized from August 7 to August 12, 2nd round from September 11 to September 16 and 3rd round from October 9 to Oct14 in the district.

Keeping in view that Ramban is in high risk priority districts - 2023, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Health Department to take all possible measures and

lay focused attention on the Measles, Rubella Elimination in the district. He further directed to start the process of vaccination at the grassroots level, targeting children in the age group of 0-5 years. The Deputy Commissioner directed the officers to launch an intensified IEC campaign to create mass awareness, especially among the parents about Intensified Mission Indhradhanush (IMI) 5.0.

The DC also asked the District Task Force to ensure participation of people including PRIs,

Lambardars, Chowkidars and other stakeholders under Jan Bhagidari to achieve desired targets under the Intensified Mission.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the CEO to submit a school wise list of children falling in the targeted age category to vaccinate them as per protocol. Besides suggesting various measures to implement Intensified Mission Indhradhanush (IMI) 5.0, the PO ICDS assured that ICDS will extend full cooperation to the Health Department in the process.

## JJM: Dist. Adm. Pulwama conducts handholding/orientation workshop on FTK for concerned stakeholders

JI NEWS SERVICE

PULWAMA, JULY 13: The District Administration Pulwama Thursday organized a comprehensive handholding/ orientation workshop to facilitate the training of stakeholders under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

The program was aimed to familiarize participants with the objectives, implementation strategies, and key components of the Water Quality Monitoring and surveillance and sensitizing the stakeholders about its use and importance.

The program witnessed the participation of various stakeholders, including Engineers, field staff, Lab Staff of PHE Department, members of PNI

Samitis, PRIs (Sarpanches), Anaganwari Workers/ Supervisors, Women FTK Members, Women SHG members of NRLM and members from civil society organizations.

The inaugural session was presided over by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Pulwama, Dr Ab Aziz and attended by Executive Engineer PHE Division Pulwama, Awantipora, PMDP MU JJM Pulwama and other concerned officials.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADC laid emphasis on the importance of collaborative efforts in successful implementation of the JJM.

ADDC Pulwama reiterated the commitment of the District

Administration towards ensuring the success of the JJM.

He highlighted the need for active involvement and cooperation of all stakeholders to accomplish the mission's objectives within the stipulated time frame.

During the orientation program, participants were provided with detailed information and demonstration of the Water Field Testing Kits (FTKs) and also on various aspects such as planning, implementation, operation, and maintenance of water supply systems.

It equipped them with the necessary skills and knowledge to ensure sustainable water management practices in rural areas.

Speakers included Experts from Project Management

Consultancy (PMC) Mission Directorate JJM, J&K, who on the occasion shared their insights and experiences in the field of water supply and management.

The sessions covered a varied range of topics, including water quality testing, water conservation, community participation, financial management, and capacity building.

Interactive session was also held during the program, where participants had the opportunity to clarify their doubts and seek guidance from the experts.

The event was well-received, with participants expressing their enthusiasm and dedication towards contributing to the success of the JJM.

The Jal Jeevan Mission,

### Community involvement is vital for gainful results: MD JJM



taibility process and it is not possible unless every person in the community owns the process. He said that we have a mandate and responsibility to sensitise our community to make them think like an engineer. He said that rejuvenation of springs is only possible when the whole community is ready to take a role and own the responsibilities.

Sangeeta Mangain from Parimal Foundation in her keynote address said that source sustainability is going to be one of the primary concerns and there is a need to work on that. She said that the Parimal Foundation will always be ready to provide technical support needed by the JJM in JK.

The workshop discussed issues related to the sustainable development of springs and strategies for their renovation, rejuvenation and augmentation.

With short but penetrating lightning talks, the workshop participants triggered important

questions and points related to spring rejuvenation which resulted in a lively and fruitful discussion.

Dr Samiulla Bhat shared his experiences of 20 years working on springs in Kashmir valley. Dr D S Bisht from National Institute of Hydrology Jammu gave a presentation on "Spring into Action: NIHS journey & Innovation in Springshed Management".

In his virtual address Abbashek Likam, from CHIRAG gave a presentation on "Socio-Hydrogeological approach to Springshed Management: Experiences in the Himalayan context." Asad Umar from Aga Khan Foundation spoke on Springshed Management to ensure drinking water security in the hilly regions of India.

Chief Engineer PWD Kashmir/Jammu, Chief Engineer I&FC, Bhawna Badola (Piramal Foundation) among others also spoke on the occasion.

## Director Agriculture visits SMF Allowpora Shopian

Departmental farms working on modern scientific lines: Chowdhury Iqbal

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JULY 13: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today visited seed multiplication farm (SMF) Allowpora Shopian and inspected different blocks of the farm besides taking stock of the latest interventions adopted by the department at the said farm. During the interaction with the officers and farm staff, Director Agriculture said that the Departmental farms are working on modern scientific lines so that these farms could be transformed into the centers of excellence for different agriculture activities.

He highlighted that a good quality seed is the foundation for the successful cultivation of a crop which finally



leads to the socio-economic transformation of the farming community.

Director Agriculture said that the Department is making all possible efforts to ensure the availability of high quality seeds produced from the departmental seed multiplication farms to the farmers well in time. He reiterated the importance of introduc-

tion of real time technologies in the cultivation of paddy and other crops.

Chowdhury Iqbal stressed upon the officers for ensuring quality planting material and creating an effective and sustainable system of supply of high quality seeds for the development of the agriculture sector in the valley.

## BSNL starts installation of towers at 26 uncovered areas of Kulgam

JI NEWS SERVICE

KULGAM, JULY 12: On the interventions of District Administration Kulgam, BSNL has started work on installation of 4G Towers at 26 locations in Kulgam.

The areas where tower installation work has been started include Mohmmadpora, Bonkhandipora, Akipora, Khee, Jogipora, Arreh, Aawhatoo, Pethkhandipora, Batpora,

CheckPora Bemdoora, Kanchawa, Srandoo, Ashmujikhalisa, Adigam, Cheyan, Maskud, Muchawa, Parigam, Chud, Matbugh, Noonmal, Kokerpund, Kanjikkullah, Yamrath, Qaimoh, Khudwani & Mah. These areas were having either poor networks or no cellular network.

Earlier, the general public of these areas had approached the Deputy Commissioner and apprised him about the poor or no cellular network

in these areas and subsequently the matter was taken up seriously with the cellular agencies following which BSNL has now started work on 26 locations in the district. This move was hailed by the people of these areas and people extended their gratitude to the District Administration and BSNL Authorities. Moreover, the concerned from BSNL were instructed by the Deputy Commissioner to ensure timely installation of these towers.

## DLTFC approves 31 JKREGP loan cases at Ramban

JI NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, JUNE 13: The District Level Task Force Committee (DLTFC) today approved 31 KVIB sponsored JKREGP loan cases at its meeting chaired by Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Musarrat Islam.

Among 42 cases proposed, only 33 candidates appeared before DLTFC of which it approved proposals after thorough scrutiny.

The DLTFC members GM DIC, Ravinder Anand; LDM, Abdul Rashid Sofi; District Officer KVIB, Gulam Qadir-ul-Din; Cluster Head JK Bank, Parvez Ahmed; Superintendent ITI, Parvez Iqbal, and Branch Head JK Bank Ramban were present during the interview.

The Deputy Commissioner said the cases of the selected candidates will be referred to different banks for grant of financial assistance under the scheme.

He said the aim of such schemes is to empower the youth by assisting them to start their own income generation units to earn their livelihood and provide employment to others.

He expressed satisfaction over the response of the people in Ramban towards such schemes and said that the government will provide every possible help to the youngsters to become self-reliant.

## DYS&S Kupwara organizes Trekking Camps for students at various locations in district

JI NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA, JULY 13: The Department of Youth Services & Sports (DYS&S) Kupwara under the aegis of District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Zahoor Ahmad Wani organized Trekking Camps at various locations of Kupwara district.

On the occasion, more than 700 students under the age groups 14 and 17 years took part.

The students and the escorted personnel of the Youth Services & Sports department explored different areas with untouched scenic beauty during the conduct of trekking camps. These camps provided them an opportunity to come out of the daily routine activities and explore unseen areas of their district.

The participants showed enthusiasm while on the way to the expedition, besides, exhibited discipline in all facets of the programme.

It is worth mentioning here that the trekking programme is being carried out in a phased manner in which both boys & girls are participating separately. The programme will culminate on the 18th of this month.

## Director F&ES visits Baltal, takes stock of safety arrangements for ongoing Shri Amarnathji Yatra

JI NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL, JULY 13: Director Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES), Alok Kumar today visited Baltal axis of Shri Amarnathji Yatra route and took stock various safety arrangements including fire safety arrangements for the ongoing holy yatra.

During the visit, the Director visited all yatra camps enroute Srinagar to Baltal including Manigam, Neilgrah, Baltal Base Camp, Baltal Tent City, Domail and also conducted surprise inspection of F&ES Gunder and Kangan.

On the occasion, Alok Kumar interacted with the officers of Paramilitary, Police and Civil Administration and discussed safety and security arrangements made for yatra. He appreciated all the officers for their commendable job in ensuring smooth and hassle free yatra for the pilgrims. He also interacted with representatives of Police, Army, CRPF, SSB, ITBP, NDRF, SDRF and Indian Air Force.

At Neilgrah helipad Camp, the Director interacted with all the officers including Camp Director as well as devotees. He gave compassionate hearing to the yatrias and passed necessary directions on spot for resolving their legitimate issues.

The Director during the visit enjoined upon all the officers and jawans of department to keep close liaison with all the stake holders for prompt and efficient response during any emergency. He also held a detailed meeting with SSP's deployed in joint PCR at Baltal base camp.

During the meeting, he was apprised about telecommunication, CCTV and Satellite facilities being provided to Yatrias during their travel/trekking from Baltal to holy cave.

## KCC Camp held at Bandipora

19 KCC, 19 PMJIBY & 19 PMSBY CASES WERE SPONSORED

JI NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, JULY 13: As part of the nationwide KCC Campaign, the Department of Animal Husbandry Bandipora in coordination with the Lead District Bank Bandipora today organized the weekly Kisan Credit Card (KCC) camp, at the Meeting Hall of BVO Office Bandipora, here.

The camp was chaired by CAHO Bandipora, Dr G. A. Lone and LDM Bandipora, Shamim Ahmad. During the camp, a total of 19 KCC cases, 19 PMJIBY (Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana), and 19 PMSBY (Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana) cases were sponsored.

The farmers were also provided awareness regarding the operation and maintenance of KCC accounts, and were also briefed about various departmental schemes. Emphasis was laid on encouraging farmers to actively avail the benefits offered by these schemes.

To address any concerns or grievances, an interactive session was held where officials engaged with the farmers and addressed their issues.

Other official attendees included Nodal Officer, Concerned Bank Managers, and concerned Veterinary Assistant Surgeon along with the staff.



# Rajouri: DPOs, AWs, Supervisors imparted training on use of Poshan Tracker App

JI NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, JULY 13: A comprehensive training on use of Poshan Tracker App was today imparted to Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs) Anganwadi workers and supervisors of Rajouri District.

The training aimed to familiarize them with the effective utilization of the Poshan Tracker app to upload various parameters of beneficiaries.

The Poshan Tracker app, a digital platform introduced by the Government of India's flagship initiative, the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) program, has been designed to monitor and track the growth and nutritional status of children and women across the country. Through this app, real-time data collection and analysis can be performed, enabling targeted interventions and better resource allocation.



The training conducted by State Nodal Officer Poshan Abhiyan Anshu Sharma marks a significant milestone in the utilization of the Poshan Tracker app in Rajouri District, reinforcing the district's dedication to eradicating malnutrition and fostering the holistic development of women and children.

The Anganwadi workers, supervisors, and CDPOs were given hands-on training on how to

navigate the Poshan Tracker app and upload different parameters related to the beneficiaries they serve. These parameters include vital information such as height, weight, immunization records, and dietary patterns, among others.

The training emphasized the significance of accurate data entry, ensuring that the information recorded in the Poshan Tracker app reflects the ground reality and aids in formulating effective poli-

cies and interventions.

The participants were also educated about the various features and functionalities of the app, empowering them to leverage its potential to address malnutrition and related issues. The implementation of the Poshan Tracker app in Rajouri District is expected to streamline the monitoring process, enhance data accuracy, and facilitate prompt decision-making. It will enable health authorities and policymakers to

track the progress of individual beneficiaries, identify nutritional gaps, and extend appropriate support and counseling to improve their overall well-being.

The training program received overwhelming participation and enthusiasm from the Anganwadi workers, supervisors, and CDPOs, who expressed their commitment to leveraging the power of technology for the betterment of the communities they serve.

With the successful completion of this training, Rajouri District is now poised to harness the potential of the Poshan Tracker app, reinforcing its commitment to eradicating malnutrition and ensuring the holistic development of women and children. Among the others, the District Programme Officer, Rajouri, Showkat Mahmood Malik and District Information Officer, Israr Bukhari also attended the training.

## FSD Anantnag conducts raids at different locations along NH at Qazigund

JI NEWS SERVICE

Seizes suspected saffron worth Rs. 6 lacs; 600 Kgs of inferior quality walnut kernels also confiscated

ANANTNAG, JULY 13: A team of the Food Safety Department (FSD) headed by Assistant Commissioner, Food Safety Anantnag today conducted raids at different locations on the national highway (NH) at Qazigund.

The raids were conducted consequent upon the inputs received regarding sale of spurious/adulterated saffron under different brand names at the national highway Qazigund. During the raids the department seized suspected saffron worth an estimated market value of Rs. 6 lacs.

Meanwhile, the investigation has revealed that some Food Business operators have engaged unemployed youth for selling the suspected saffron to the travelers at national highway and the Department has initiated action against three Food Business Operators who are considered as kingpin behind such fraudulent practices. During the raids around 600 Kgs of inferior quality walnut kernels have also been seized. Extensive awareness was also imparted to the stakeholders regarding the importance of promoting fair practices in the saffron trade.

Further, the Food Safety team warned Food Business Operators to desist from such fraudulent practices failing which stern action as per law shall follow against those who are found violating the different provisions of Act.

## Muharram-ul-Haram arrangements reviewed at Anantnag

JI NEWS SERVICE



ANANTNAG, JULY 13: The Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Anantnag, SM Ashraf today convened a meeting of officers to review arrangements for entering holy month of Muharram ul Haram at DC Office, here.

The ADC directed the officers from KPDC and Jal Shakti to ensure uninterrupted power and water supply during the holy days especially in shia dominated areas of the district.

The Jal Shakti authorities were also asked to keep tanker service available at Imam bars while KPDC officers were directed to install generators near Imam bars. FCS&CA authorities were asked to ensure adequate availability of essentials in shia populated areas while Health authorities were instructed to set up first aid camps near Imam bars of the district besides keeping ambulance doctors, paramedical staff, and service ready. R&B authorities were directed to ensure repair of all roads, link-roads especially the ones leading to Imam bars wherever required.

The authorities of Municipal Committees of the district were asked to ensure proper sanitation in and around Imam bars.

Among others, the meeting was attended by all concerned officers of PDD, PHE, and officers of line departments besides representatives from shia Community.

## Agri Dept conducts Awareness programme on 'Daksh Kisan' Portal at GDC Kilam

JI NEWS SERVICE



KULGAM, JULY 13: One day awareness programme on "Daksh Kisan Learning Management System" (DKLMS) was today organized by Agriculture Production Department Kulgam at Government Degree College, Kilam under "Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADPP)".

The programme was attended by Principal Government Degree College Kilam, Faculty members, Block level officers from agriculture & allied departments besides a large number of students of the College.

At the outset, Principal GDC Kilam presented a welcome note and briefed the participants about the role of agriculture and allied sectors in the economy of UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

Resource Person, Shaiber Ahmad Mir highlighted the background of HADPP- an amalgam of 29 interlinked projects, Kisan Sampark Abhiyan, and importance of the event in sensitization of youth about the new technologies, interventions in agriculture and allied sectors, Skill development and empowerment of farmers, agri-pre-neurs and employment opportunities for educated unemployed youth. Dr. Nisar Ahmad Dar Technical Officer to CAO Kulgam, deliberated on Kisan Saathi IT dashboard (for online application to avail benefits under HADPP) and Daksh Kisan web portal which offers orientation and 121 skilling certificate courses for all interventions, latest techniques, exploration of new possibilities in agriculture and allied sectors.

## 7-Day National Workshop on Communication Skills and Personality Development Concludes in GDC Kishtwar

JI NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, JULY 13: The week-long National Workshop on Communication Skills and Personality Development organized by the Career Counseling and Guidance Cell of Government Degree College Kishtwar in collaboration with the Indian Army, concluded successfully.

The valedictory ceremony witnessed the presence of Col. Aneya Chiplunkar from 17 RR as the chief guest and Dr. Kuldeep Kumar Sharma, Principal of GDC Bhardwaj as the guest of honor.

The program was chaired by Prof. Faisal Mushtaq, Coordinator of the Career Counseling and Guidance Cell, under the overall supervision of the College Principal Prof. (Dr.) Jyoti Parihar.



During the workshop, distinguished guest speakers including Dr. (Prof.) Jagriti Upadhyaya from Sardar Patel University of Jodhpur, Maj. Rohit Kumar Jaj and Col. Aneya Chiplunkar of 17 RR delivered enlightening ses-

sions. The workshop saw the enthusiastic participation of around 200 students and 60 faculty members from the School and Higher Education departments. The event was inaugurated on

July 6th by Dr. Devansh Yadav Deputy Commissioner, in the presence of SSP, Khalil Poswal.

The primary objective of this workshop was to foster communication skills, correct pronunciation, phonetics usage, addressing

common errors in everyday English, public-speaking skills, the art of writing presentations, and personality development among the participants.

The sessions were designed to enhance the overall confidence and professional development of the attendees.

The Career Counseling and Guidance Cell of GDC Kishtwar, in collaboration with the Indian Army, expressed gratitude to all the guest speakers, participants, and faculty members for their active involvement, making the workshop a resounding success.

The workshop has undoubtedly equipped the participants with valuable skills and knowledge that will benefit them in their academic pursuits and future endeavors.

## Change of Land Use for 5-Star Hotel, School among 5 startups approved in Doda

JI NEWS SERVICE

DODA, JULY 13: District Level Committee (DLC) on Change of Land Use (CLU) today approved five cases at its meeting chaired by Deputy Commissioner (Chairman DLC), Vishesh Mahajan held here in the DC Office Complex Doda.

The DLC unanimously accepted and approved the applications for change of land use for a 5-Star Hotel and an International standard school proposed to be built in Bhardwaj sub-district.

The DLC also considered three other cases received on designated portal for seeking change of land use for the establishment of different business units in the district, after thorough scrutiny.

For all the 5 cases approved today, 68 Kanal of agricultural land has been allotted to the applicants after observing all codal formalities.

The DC observed that the allotment of land shall boost economic activities, tourism and educational standard in the district thereby bringing more prosperity and livelihood opportunities to its residents.

The DC directed the dealing officials to initiate next course of action with immediate effect and asked to ensure fee submission by the applicant as per the guidelines of CLU for the completion of the process.

Meanwhile, the DC also chaired the meeting of Forest Rights Committee (FRC) and discussed three cases Submitted by Sub Divisional Committee for approval. After thorough examination the decision of the District Level Committee was kept withheld for want of some critical clarification from the Sub Divisional Committee.

The meeting was attended by ADC Doda, ADC Bhardwaj, SE PWD, SE Jal Shakti, SE JPDC, ACR Doda, Tehsil Headquarter, Divisional Officer PCC, and other concerned officials.

## Jal Jiwan Mission: 70 major schemes being completed in Doda District by Aug 2023

DC seeks highest level monitoring by JSD, timely completion of projects

JI NEWS SERVICE

DODA, JULY 13: Deputy Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan, as the Chairman District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM) under Jal Jeevan Mission, reviewed the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) a meeting of Jal Shakti Department (JSD) held in his office chamber, here today. The JSD Engineers were asked to complete atleast 31 JJM projects taken up in different parts of the district by 31st of July 2023 and submit

the list of the same to his office by tomorrow. The meeting was informed that the JSD has set a target of completing 70 projects (physically and financially) by August 2023.

The Chairman DWSM asked the department to resort the DPRs wherever required as per the guidelines to ensure all the households get safe tap water as early as possible. He directed the JSD functionaries to use administrative charges from the overall allocation for speedy restoration, emergency use and meeting other

logistics where ever required. Officers of JSD, Forest department and Revenue Department were instructed to work in synergy for the completion of all the allotted water supply schemes and providing tap water to all households as envisaged in the scheme.

The DC was informed that 185 Projects at an estimated cost of Rs 748.31 crore have been tendered in the district to provide safe drinking water through tap connections to 44700 households.

## My Youth My Pride Sports activities organised in Kathua district

JI NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, JULY 13: Even as the temperature was on the higher side, a series of sports activities were conducted at many places in the Jammu division by the district units of J&K Sports Council.

The Tug of War and Rope Skipping competitions were held at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya under special sports vertical My Youth My Pride.

The DDC Chairman Kathua Col. Mahan Singh was the chief guest on the occasion while Deputy

Commissioner Kathua Dr. Rakesh Minhas was the guest of honour.

Around eight boys and an equal number of girls participated in the Tug of war events, while a good number of players also participated in Rope skipping events. A large hoard of spectators witnessed the event.

DDC Member, Goldy Singh, BDC Chairperson Basohli, Sushma Jamwal; Municipal Committee Basohli Chairman, Sumesh Spolia; ADC Basohli, Ajit Singh; Principal JNV Basohli, Jaipal Singh Jamwal; ZPEO, Tara Singh were also present at the

venue. The event was supervised by Baljinder Pal Singh Manager Kathua. Matches were officiated by Rohit Sharma, Vinod Kumar and Bibbeta.

Meanwhile, a cycle race was organised by the Sports Council from Atal Setu to Zero Morh and back to Atal Setu. Additional Deputy Commissioner, Basohli Ajit Singh flagged off the race. Chairman Municipal Committee Basohli Sumesh Spolia was also present on the occasion. Sarang Sharma won the race beating its opponents by a narrow margin.

## Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 5.0: Poonch admin finalises action plan for Intensive vaccination

JI NEWS SERVICE

POONCH, JULY 13: To strengthen the routine vaccination process and expand immunization to cover all children in District Poonch, the District Task Force on Intensive Mission Indradhanush (IMI) Programme finalized the action plan at its meeting chaired by Deputy Commissioner, Yasin M. Choudhary held here in the Conference Hall of DC Office Complex. Among others the meeting was attended by Programme Officer, ICDS, Khalid Hussain Wafa, Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Anes Altaf Nahi, Chief Education Officer, Bishambar Dass, ARTO, Basharat Mehmood, Medical Superintendent District Hospital, Dr. Zulafkar Ahmed, District Immunisation Officer, BMO Mandi/ Surankote/ Mendhar, CEO MCP, Mohammad Hanief



and other concerned. At the outset, the Health Department team gave a detailed power-point presentation on the preparations, plans and objectives of IMI 5.0. The presentation emphasized on selecting the right beneficiaries, areas, dropouts and missed out children under the immunization process, besides highlighting different basic

parameters to be considered while conducting IMI 5.0. The meeting was informed that first round of immunization under Mission Indradhanush will commence till August 07, 2023 and continue

till August 12, 2023 followed by the second round from September 11 to September 16, 2023 and third round from October 09 to October 14, 2023 to cover children aged 0 to

2 years and expecting mothers for immunization particularly covering high risks areas where nomads, and people living in slums will be taken care.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner directed the officers and other stakeholders to work in synergy to ensure coverage of all drop outs under the Mission is achieved in a time bound manner. He asked the Programme Officer, ICDS to maintain close liaison with the Health Department and mobilise grassroots functionaries including Anganwadi workers for the effective implementation of the Mission Indradhanush.

During the meeting, the DC directed the stakeholder departments to conduct surveys to identify and enlist beneficiaries so that left out children are registered for vaccination on U-Win (win

over vaccination), the platform to be used to register and vaccinate every pregnant woman and register her delivery outcome and required immunizations.

The DC also stressed on vigorous IEC campaigns and effective communication for mass mobilization at appropriate platforms for successful implementation of Mission Indradhanush to achieve the set targets, besides ensuring actionable monitoring feedback at all levels specific to U-Win and IMI 5.0.

Pertinent to mention that under Mission Indradhanush vaccination against life-threatening diseases (Measles Rubella, Tuberculosis, Hepatitis B, Polio Virus, Diphtheria, Pertussis & Tetanus, Pneumococcal diseases, Rotavirus, Haemophilus influenzae B Meningitis and Pneumonia) is to be provided.



# Super Kings rely on familiar experience play at Texas

NEW YORK : The Super Kings bring their aura of invincibility to Texas. The Grand Prairie stadium is located on the outskirts of Dallas will operate as TSK's home base. The Super Kings' talisman and head coach of 15 years, Stephen Fleming will lead the coaching contingent at TSK comprising Albie Morkel and Eric Simmons as assistant and bowling coaches respectively. TSK will hope for a good start ahead of their historic first MLC game against LAKR in front of a jam-packed Grand Prairie stadium, amid a sea of yellow.



How did they fare at the draft: TSK raised a few eyebrows at the draft event after signing the 29-year-old Iwan Theron. He recently bid adieu to the 50-over format for USA owing to fitness concerns. However, Theron does bring a wealth of T20 bowling experience, having turned up in 129

T20s. TSK's second pick was Calvin Savage, arguably the quickest bowler in America with the intent to wield the long handle. Paceman Cameron Stevenson was snapped up by TSK too, despite being shown the door by USA.

Former Pakistan opener Sami Aslam will have a point or two to prove back home. Aslam migrated to the US after his patience for a comeback fell through with the PCB. Pugnacious keeper-batter Lahiru Milantha and former Delhi

and RCB batter Milind Kumar provide the other quality batting options for the franchise. TSK only managed to rope in a solitary domestic spinner in Zia Shehzad.

# Dressing room not unsettled: Shakib

SYLHET : Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan urged his teammates not to get carried away with names as they prepare to take on Afghanistan in the two-match series opener at the Sylhet International Stadium on July 14. Against the hosts, they have nine T20I and won six out of them to make them clear favourites though Bangladesh can take confidence from the fact that they have cleanly swept away the England in the three-match T20I series at home and followed that with a 2-1 win over Ireland. "We are not thinking of any individual and our team is not dependent on any particular batsman or bowler. We want to perform as a team and win through it. We would like to have that kind of determination," Shakib told reporters ahead of the opening game at Sylhet on Thursday.

I have not spoken of any particular cricketer neither are we thinking about it. Everyone will prepare individually keeping in mind what kind of challenges they will face. This is not something we have to tell. Anyone coming at a certain situation will have to perform well. In T20 momentum is very important and it is important how we start the series because for us how we make the start is very important," he said.

"I feel we play well as a team at that point when we are not thinking about the opponent. When we are playing with an open mind and think about how we can improve 10 to 20 percent at that point we perform. We get nervous and cannot perform that well when we think about the condition and the opponent. The lesser we do that the better for us," he said adding that they are prepared for rain curtailed games and would be ready to take anything that comes their way. "From coach to me the directive is that we should be ready for everything. The match might get curtailed as any time there might be rain. It can be 5 over, 10 over, 15-18 over to 20 overs and we must be open for that. We will know how many overs the match will be before the toss and we will try to form the XI accordingly," he said.

"We are not thinking too much about the condition because it is the same for both teams and now I feel we have such a team that we don't need to take advantage of the conditions. I believe we have a team that can fight with any team after adapting to the condition. We should be open to play under any condition and perform," he said. "We have not spoken a lot about the wicket. Me and coach perhaps talked a bit but apart from that I am not sure whether one or two cricketers went close to the wickets. Afghanistan is a big team and if we take World Cup and Asia Cup into consideration I feel this is a good chance to play against them and know them better," he added.

# London Spirit sign Richa Ghosh as replacement for Georgia Redmayne

LONDON : Richa Ghosh, the 19-year-old wicketkeeper-batter, has become the third Indian player to sign a contract in the Hundred for 2023, replacing the injured Georgia Redmayne at London Spirit.

Ghosh's salary in the Hundred is understood to be £12,500 (INR 15 lakh approx), which is in comparison to the INR 1.9 crore (£180,000 approx) that she was paid by Royal Challengers Bangalore in the inaugural Women's Premier League earlier this year. But the tournament will provide her with an opportunity to further her development as a player, having recently missed out on selection for India's tour to Bangladesh.

Her captain at Spirit will be Heather Knight, while other team-mates will include Grace Harris, Amelia Kerr and Sarah Glenn. Ghosh's replacement deal

was announced by the ECB on Thursday morning along with a number of other signings in the women's competition, while Trent Rockets have signed the former England Test debutant Lauren Filer in the open-market process that followed March's draft. Emily Windsor, who hit the winning runs in the 2022 final for Oval Invincibles, has moved to Welsh Fire for this summer while Trent Rockets have signed the former England middle-order batter Fran Wilson.

ESPNCricinfo revealed last week the results of the domestic wildcard draft, which have now been confirmed by the ECB, along with replacement contracts for Matthew Short (replacing Michael Bracewell at Northern Superchargers) and Usama Mir (replacing Wanindu Hasaranga at Manchester Originals).

Spirit have also found short-notice replacements for Glenn Maxwell and Mitchell Marsh, after they were pulled out of the tournament by Cricket Australia. Matthew Wade, the Australian wicketkeeper-batter, and New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell will come in instead.

Adam Zampa will also return to the Hundred in the second half of the season, replacing Sunil Narine at Oval Invincibles when Narine leaves for the Caribbean Premier League after August 13.

Women's Hundred signings: Birmingham Phoenix: Davina Perrin, Abbey Freeborn, Charis Pavey Welsh Fire: Emily Windsor, Ella McCaughan, Georgia Davis, Kate Coppock Trent Rockets: Jo Gardner, Fran Wilson, Nat Wraith, Cassidy McCarthy (replacing Emma Jones) Manchester Originals: Usama Mir (replacing Wanindu Hasaranga), Northern Superchargers: Georgia Boyce, Lucy Higham, Grace Ballinger, Grace Hall, Leah Dobson (replacing Phoebe Franklin)

Active male Indian players are not permitted to play in overseas short-form leagues by the BCCI but female players have regularly appeared in the Hundred and the Women's Big Bash League, among

others. Her captain at Spirit will be Heather Knight, while other team-mates will include Grace Harris, Amelia Kerr and Sarah Glenn. Ghosh's replacement deal

was announced by the ECB on Thursday morning along with a number of other signings in the women's competition, while Trent Rockets have signed the former England Test debutant Lauren Filer in the open-market process that followed March's draft. Emily Windsor, who hit the winning runs in the 2022 final for Oval Invincibles, has moved to Welsh Fire for this summer while Trent Rockets have signed the former England middle-order batter Fran Wilson.

ESPNCricinfo revealed last week the results of the domestic wildcard draft, which have now been confirmed by the ECB, along with replacement contracts for Matthew Short (replacing Michael Bracewell at Northern Superchargers) and Usama Mir (replacing Wanindu Hasaranga at Manchester Originals).

Spirit have also found short-notice replacements for Glenn Maxwell and Mitchell Marsh, after they were pulled out of the tournament by Cricket Australia. Matthew Wade, the Australian wicketkeeper-batter, and New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell will come in instead.

Adam Zampa will also return to the Hundred in the second half of the season, replacing Sunil Narine at Oval Invincibles when Narine leaves for the Caribbean Premier League after August 13.

Women's Hundred signings: Birmingham Phoenix: Davina Perrin, Abbey Freeborn, Charis Pavey Welsh Fire: Emily Windsor, Ella McCaughan, Georgia Davis, Kate Coppock Trent Rockets: Jo Gardner, Fran Wilson, Nat Wraith, Cassidy McCarthy (replacing Emma Jones) Manchester Originals: Usama Mir (replacing Wanindu Hasaranga), Northern Superchargers: Georgia Boyce, Lucy Higham, Grace Ballinger, Grace Hall, Leah Dobson (replacing Phoebe Franklin)

Active male Indian players are not permitted to play in overseas short-form leagues by the BCCI but female players have regularly appeared in the Hundred and the Women's Big Bash League, among

# Ashwin on five-for after WTC final omission: 'Without the lows there are no highs'

ROSSSEAU : When R Ashwin was left out of the XI in the WTC final last month, he had two options, he says: either 'sulking and complain about it' or 'learn from it'. Ashwin chose the second despite the "unfortunate" omission, focused on keeping the dressing room atmosphere "up and about" during the final and then gave his "best efforts" as soon as he was back in the Test XI.

On the opening day of the Test series against West Indies in Roseau, Ashwin grabbed his 33rd Test five-for to help bowl out the hosts for just 150 to give India the advantage. He first got the big wickets of Tageranerie Chanderpaul and Kraig Brathwaite in the first session, before dismissing debutant and top scorer Alick Athanaze and two tailenders to finish with 5 for 60. Ashwin said it was his "constant search for excellence" that has held him in good stead all this while.

"There's no human being or cricketer who has gone through the highs without the lows," he said after the first day's play. "When you have lows, it gives you two chances - either you sulks and complain about it and go along and go down, or you learn from it. I am someone who's constantly learnt from my lows. In fact the best thing that's happened after this good day that I've had is that I'll have a good meal, talk to my family and then go to bed and forget about it because when you've had a good day you know you've had a good day, but there are areas you can work on and get better for tomorrow."

"It was just unfortunate it didn't pan out, the first day left us too much behind in the shed. But what's the difference between me and another person who's going to sulks? So all I'd like to give my team and team-mates and Indian cricket as a whole is some understanding and my best efforts on the field and that's where I'd like to leave it and draw a line. "There's so much international cricket. IPL leagues these days around the world that it's important for us to stay in the present. I do a lot of other things surrounding cricket, there are some teams to look after at home as well. I always try to stay in the present. What happened in the WTC final was very sad because we couldn't win, and it was the second final in a row. Out here it was very important for me to start the series well, stay in the present and do well. I got lucky, I had a really good first spell today which set up the spell later on."

"As a cricketer it's very tough that you have a shot at the WTC final, sitting out, all that is fine," he said. "But what's the difference between me and another youngster or person if I also end up sulking inside the dressing room... I was mentally prepared to play with my preparations, but I was also flick and managed to get a leading edge behind the wicketkeeper, where Fabiana Khatun pounced it after running to her right from slip. In Sultana's next over, Shafali Verma danced down the track and whipped the ball straight to long-on. This was after Shafali was kept quiet by seamer Marufa Akter - who, along with Sultana - had two fielders deep on the leg side to cut down boundary-scoring options and denied width outside off.

Shorna Akter then struck in her only over, getting a set Jemimah Rodrigues pumped before India collapsed from 91 to 3 to 102 for 9. While Yastika Bhatia failed to connect with an attempted heave and got trapped lbw by legspinner Rabeya Khan, Pooja Vashtakar, Deepti Sharma and Minnu Mani all fell to spin, in an attempt to force the pace at the death. Vashtakar was knocked over by a straight ball from Nahida while trying to hit across the line, while Mani was cleaned up attempting a scoop. Then Deepti holed out to deep mid-offen on the final ball of the innings to hand Rabeya a three-for. While Bangladesh bowled 16 overs of spin in the second T20, they had spinners on for 17 overs on Thursday with India facing 44 dots against them.

Harnampreet or bust Coming on the back of a first-ball duck on Tuesday, Harnampreet Kaur steadied the ship for India after finding herself in the middle, inside the powerplay again. She looked at ease against an on-song Sultana.

Harnampreet or bust Coming on the back of a first-ball duck on Tuesday, Harnampreet Kaur steadied the ship for India after finding herself in the middle, inside the powerplay again. She looked at ease against an on-song Sultana.

# Shamima steers tricky chase to hand Bangladesh consolation win

MIRPUR : Two days after coming close to upstaging them, Bangladesh defeated India in the final T20I to register a consolation win and finish the series 2-1. Chasing 103, Shamima Sultana kept Bangladesh in the hunt with a 46-ball 42 before a brief collapse in the middle threatened to undo the good work. But Sultana Khatun's eight-ball 12 and Nahida Akter's calm six-ball 10 helped Bangladesh register their third win over India in 16 women's T20Is.

Spin trouble for India Like in the second T20I, India were once again troubled by the Bangladesh spinners. Smriti Mandhana's troubles against offspin continued as she was dismissed off Sultana's first ball. Mandhana was early on an attempted

flick and managed to get a leading edge behind the wicketkeeper, where Fabiana Khatun pounced it after running to her right from slip. In Sultana's next over, Shafali Verma danced down the track and whipped the ball straight to long-on. This was after Shafali was kept quiet by seamer Marufa Akter - who, along with Sultana - had two fielders deep on the leg side to cut down boundary-scoring options and denied width outside off.

Shorna Akter then struck in her only over, getting a set Jemimah Rodrigues pumped before India collapsed from 91 to 3 to 102 for 9. While Yastika Bhatia failed to connect with an attempted heave and got trapped lbw by legspinner Rabeya Khan, Pooja Vashtakar, Deepti Sharma and Minnu Mani all fell to spin, in an attempt to force the pace at the death. Vashtakar was knocked over by a straight ball from Nahida while trying to hit across the line, while Mani was cleaned up attempting a scoop. Then Deepti holed out to deep mid-offen on the final ball of the innings to hand Rabeya a three-for. While Bangladesh bowled 16 overs of spin in the second T20, they had spinners on for 17 overs on Thursday with India facing 44 dots against them.

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR UNION TERRITORY**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,**  
**PWD (R&B) DIVISION KATRA**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
**Fresh e-NIT No. 43 of 2023-24 Dated: 11-07-2023**  
 For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited from Architects including structural consultants for below mentioned works.

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (In Rs.)	Cost of tender document (In Rs.)	Earnest Money/ Bid Security	Time of completion
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
1.	Architectural & Structural consultancy including preparation of complete detailed estimates & BOQ, soil investigation, Preparation of Structural Drawings Complete, Electrical and vetting of design from competent authority IT/NIT/DIQ for Construction of Agriculture store & Medicine store Sheep Breeding Farm Panthal, (Katra) as per the requirement of concerned Department. (Complete job). (3 <sup>rd</sup> time)	0.95	600/-	1900/-	45 days

Position of AAA = Accord  
 Position of funds = Available

1	Date of Publishing of Tender Notice	12-07-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 12-07-2023 to 18-07-2023, 1700 Hrs
4	Bid submission Start Date	12-07-2023
5	Bid Submission End Date	18-07-2023 up to 1700 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	19-07-2023 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Katra.
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

- The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, terms and conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in.
- Bidders shall upload a scanned copy of Earnest Money Deposit (2% of the Advertised Cost of the tender) in shape of CDR/FDR. The EMD of successful bidder shall be released after submission of performance security 83% of contract price at the time of allotment.
- Cost of tender document:** Bid must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/receipt issued after date of issuance of e-NIT under MH 0059-Rev mentioning the name of work otherwise will not be accepted for which the tender fee was deposited in favour of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Katra. A copy of receipt of cost of tender document should be uploaded on official website www.jktenders.gov.in upto the specified bid submission date and time.
- Time schedule:** The work, as per "Scope of work" should be completed in 30 days.
- Clarification:** Bidders can seek clarification to the RFP document by writing at email id- cepwdkatra@gmail.com or from the office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Katra on any working day.

No.: 2394-99  
 Dated: 11-07-2023  
 DIP/J-4916/23  
 (ER. ASHWANI KUMAR)  
 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
 PWD (R&B) DIVISION  
 KATRA

**75th Anniversary**  
**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
 The Dy. Chief Engineer/Const-II/Northern Railway Banhal for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender under One-Packet system for the following work:

S. No.	Name of work	Approx. Cost/ Earnest Money	Similar nature of work/ period of completion	Cost of tender document (Nil in case of e-tender)
1	Final Location Survey (F.L.S) for New Line Sopore-Kuwara (33.70 km)	₹ 3,30,79,523/- ₹ 1,15,400/-	Engineering survey work of a Railway line/roadway using modern surveying techniques such as Aerial Survey (Aerial Photogrammetric survey of Aerial LIDAR) and DGPS (Differential Global Positioning System) leveling and creation of DEM/7.5 days	Nil
2	Last date & time of upload of tender		Up to 11.30 hrs. on 07.08.2023	
3	Date of opening of tender		11.30 hrs. on 07.08.2023	
4	Validity of offer		60 days from the date of opening of tender	
5	Availability of tender document on Railway website for submission of offer		From 24.07.2023 to 07.08.2023 Tender documents will be available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in	

The E-Tender Notice/Tender Document will be available on www.ireps.gov.in from the date of uploading of tender documents.  
 Tender Notice No.W-2/Survey/Dy.CEC/BAHAL Dated: 13.07.2023 2157/2023  
**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

# Advisor Bhatnagar visits SDH Pahalgam, reviews its functioning, healthcare facilities

### Also inspects ongoing works at new 50 bedded hospital

J1 NEWS SERVICE

PAHALGAM, JULY 13: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar today visited Sub-District hospital (SDH) Pahalgam and reviewed functioning as well as facilities being provided to the public there.

Accompanied by a team of officials from the Health Department and officers of other line departments, Advisor Bhatnagar assessed the existing facilities at the hospital and took firsthand appraisal of all the healthcare facilities being provided to the public.



During the visit, Advisor Bhatnagar took a detailed tour of the hospital and inspected all its sections. He meticulously examined the infrastructure, medical

equipment, and patient care services in the hospital and engaged in constructive deliberations with doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals for

improving the healthcare system in the hospital.

The Advisor also interacted with patients and attendants during the visit, and took onspot review of all the facilities being provided to them.

While interacting with the doctors and para medical staff, the Advisor emphasized on providing comprehensive healthcare services to the people as well as the visitors owing the importance of Pahalgam as a favourable tourist destination. He also stressed on availability of quality medicines and other health care equipments in view

of the ongoing Shri Amarnathji Yatra.

The Advisor on the occasion commended that doctors and staff for their relentless efforts to provide quality healthcare services to the people here. He also noted the suggestions and requirements of the doctors and para medical staff there and gave on spot directions for the same.

Meanwhile, Advisor Bhatnagar also inspected ongoing construction works at new 50 bedded hospital.

The purpose of the visit was to assess the progress of the construction works and ensure adherence to the stipulated timelines and quality standards.

# Singapore Trekking Team explores Panikhar to Warwan Trek

### 'Trek bound to win International fame'



J1 NEWS SERVICE

KISHITWAR, JULY 13: A team of fifteen trekkers from Singapore, who embarked on a challenging odyssey on July 6, 2023 to explore Panikhar to Warwan Trek in District Kishtwar, has accomplished the expedition.

The trek, spanning a distance of 90 (ninety) kilometers, showcased the team's determination and resilience in the face of unforeseen circumstances.

The first three days of the trek witnessed exceptional progress, with the team covering a commendable distance of 65 kilometers. However, inclement weather on July 8th and 9th forced the suspension of the trek.

Heavy snowfall prompted the team to return to Srinagar, where they regrouped and prepared for an alternative route.

Undeterred by the setbacks, the team resumed their trek from Warwan, Jammu side, venturing an additional 25 kilometers.

Their unwavering spirits and perseverance led them to successfully complete the ninety kilometers trek on July 12, 2023, at the picturesque Sukhni Last Village of the Jammu region.

During their journey, the Singapore team had the opportunity to interact with local adventurers, specifically the Srinagar-based Adventure Tour Operator, MS Peaks and Hikes Adventurous. This expedition, organized in collaboration with the local support team from 'Warwan Valley Eco Resorts', aimed to promote tourism in the Drass, Kargi, and Warwan regions, establishing a thriving hub for international trekkers.

The team expressed their satisfaction with the warm reception and hospitality they experienced in Drass and Warwan.

# CS conducts late night city tour to assess progress of Smart City projects



J1 NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JULY 13: Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta Wednesday went on a late evening visit of the Srinagar city to take stock of the double shift of works under progress under Srinagar Smart City Limited.

On the occasion he was accompanied by Principal Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir and CEO, Smart City Srinagar.

The tour commenced from the under-construction traditional Souq market and craft center, followed by visits to civil lines area of Batmaloo, Ghanta Ghar and sports arena at MA Road here. The Chief Secretary was informed that the Souq Market project aims at revitalizing the traditional craft-making by integrating modern

infrastructure and amenities while preserving its cultural and architectural heritage. He said that the ongoing works should ensure that the design aligns with the vision of creating a vibrant and attractive marketplace.

Dr. Mehta also assessed the measures taken towards incorporation of smart elements into the city infrastructure such as intelligent lighting systems, waste management facilities, and digital connectivity to enhance the overall shopping experience and promote sustainable practices in the city. He also visited Batmaloo, where he inspected works on various aspects of urban development.

He reviewed the progress of initiatives aimed at improving urban mobility, such as the development of intelligent transportation systems and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure including smart public transportation

systems, viz, GPS-enabled buses, digital ticketing services, and real-time passenger information systems.

Additionally, the Chief Secretary assessed the construction of cycling tracks and the integration of smart traffic management solutions to alleviate congestion and enhance the overall transportation network in the area.

The Chief Secretary visited the historical landmark of Ghanta Ghar. Here they inspected the ongoing restoration and preservation efforts as part of the Smart City project. He noted that the traditional architecture and heritage of the area should be incorporated with modern amenities besides smart solutions.

He also assessed the progress of heritage conservation projects, including the renovation of old buildings and the beautification of public spaces surrounding this historical monument of Ghanta Ghar. The current efforts aims at preserving the historical significance of the area, attract tourism, and create a visually appealing environment for residents and visitors in and around the city centre.

It was given out that the government's commitment to transform Srinagar into a smart and sustainable city was evident, and the officers discussed strategies to overcome obstacles and ensure the successful completion of the projects on time while preserving the cultural heritage.

# DC Srinagar reviews progress on Mission Amrit Sarovar

### Legacy Waste Management process to be completed soon in all Panchayats of the District

J1 NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JULY 13: In order to review the progress in the implementation of Mission Amrit Sarovar, aimed at developing and rejuvenating water bodies, a meeting of Rural Development Department was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Ajaz Asad here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

Chief Planning Officer, Srinagar, Superintending Engineer, Hydraulic Circle Srinagar, DFO, Urban Forestry, DFO Social Forestry, Assistant Commissioner Development, District Soil Conservation Officer, Executive Engineer I&FC, Executive Engineer REW, District Floriculture Officer, District Lead Manager and other concerned Officers.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the progress made so far in implementation of Mission Amrit Sarovar by the concerned Departments in the District in rejuvenating springs/ponds for their development as envisaged under the Mission.

At the outset, the DC sought an action plan from all the line Departments in order to fill the gaps to fully achieve the target as per set indicators under Mission.

The DC was apprised that about 77 springs/ponds have been rejuvenated/ developed so far by RDD, I&FC, SMC, Soil Conservation and Forest Departments in the District and 03 new Amrit Sarovars are being taken up this year.

The DC stressed the concerned officers to lay focused attention on identifying the Gaps to fill them at the earliest.

The DC also asked them to strengthen catchment treatment measures, besides ensuring timely uploading of data.

# JKTPO, Invest India, DPIIT GOI organize Organic Certification drive in Kupwara

### Urges youth to be Brand Ambassadors of Public Welfare Schemes of the government

J1 NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA, JULY 13: Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) in association with Invest India, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Government of India today organized organic certification drive for Walnut produce of district Kupwara under ODDP initiative at Town Hall here.

Senior officers of JKTPO, representative from Invest India and Aditi Group, District Horticulture Officer Kupwara,

Area Marketing Officer, Horticulture Planning & Marketing Department Kupwara, more than 120 farmers and FPOs participated in the programme.

In his welcome address, District Horticulture officer Kupwara welcomed all participants and commended JKTPO, Invest India for organizing such drives. Senior representatives from Invest India team and Aditi Group, while speaking on the occasion, explained the benefits and the documentation required for organic certification.

Under this initiative, the farmers will

get organic certification of walnuts as proof for organic produce, through Invest India, Government of India which will fetch remunerative prices for the produce and boost economy of the district in a significant way.

It is important to add that organic products and organic farming have of late found a lot of resonance both nationally and globally and organic certification of Kupwara walnut will enhance its value and the acceptability in the market. JKTPO in association with Invest India had already completed the Organic certification

drive for three districts of UT J&K viz saffron for Pulwama, Saffron for Kishtwar and Honey for Ramban and the certificates are ready for distribution in these districts. JKTPO will carry out these drives for other districts also in future so that the farmers shall get benefitted.

Pertinently, National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) under Ministry of Commerce & Industries, Government of India involves accreditation of Certification Bodies, standards for organic production, promotion of organic farming and marketing etc.

# JKEDI, The India Network to organize two-day Startup Leadership Summit from July, 17

J1 NEWS SERVICE

### DIRECTOR JK-EDI REVIEWS PREPARATIONS

SRINAGAR, JULY 13: Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) is set to organize a transformative two-day Startup Leadership Summit for entrepreneurs of J&K on July 17th and 18th in collaboration with the India Network to cultivate a robust ecosystem for entrepreneurship and innovation within the Union Territory.

In this connection, the Director JKEDI, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat today meeting a preparatory meeting in which senior faculty members and officers of the Institute participated.

'The workshop will serve as a platform for aspiring and existing entrepreneurs to gain valuable insights, knowledge, and



skills necessary for building successful businesses in today's dynamic and competitive landscape. It will feature a diverse range of sessions, including interactive discussions, expert presentations, case studies, and practical exercises, all designed to equip participants with the

tools and resources needed to excel in their entrepreneurial journeys,' said Director JKEDI. The event will include sessions from Rahul Narvekar, the Founder and CEO of The India Network, who brings extensive experience as a seasoned investor, guiding and support-

ing entrepreneurial ventures across various industries. Joining him is Himanshu Bhargat, the Chief Operating Officer of The India Network, who contributes her strategic expertise and operational acumen to foster entrepreneurship and innovation.

Additionally, Sonia Khurana, the Founder and CEO of Wyn Studio, adds her entrepreneurial insights and industry knowledge to the mix. Dinesh Singh and Amit Mishra, Co-founders of Alpha Consultants, bring their valuable expertise in business consulting and financial management, offering invaluable guidance to aspiring entrepreneurs.

The summit will also feature pitching sessions, providing entrepreneurs with the opportu-

nity to present their business ideas and proposals to a panel of Angel Investors hailing from various parts of the country. These investors will lend their ears to the pitches, offering valuable feedback, guidance, and potential investment opportunities to promising entrepreneurs.

Participants will also engage with seasoned industry professionals, successful entrepreneurs, and subject matter experts who will share their experiences, provide mentorship, and offer guidance on various aspects of entrepreneurship.

The summit will cover essential topics such as business ideation, market research, financial planning, marketing strategies, legal and regulatory frameworks, and access to funding opportunities.

# Kishtwar launches 'Doctor Apke Gaon Mai' initiative to bring medical services to remote villages

J1 NEWS SERVICE

KISHITWAR, JULY 13: The Health Department, in collaboration with the District Administration Kishtwar, has launched a pioneering initiative called "Doctors Apke Gaon Mai" aimed at providing comprehensive medical screening services to remote villages in the district.

The initiative commenced on July 12, from Nowapachi Marwah and organised today at Afti Warwan. In Marwah, a camp was held at Community Health Centre Marwah where a total of 1376 patients were examined by specialists from District Hospital Kishtwar. More than 100 Persons with Disabilities were also examined for UDID Card issuance.

Similarly, at Warwan Camp was held at Primary Health Centre Afti by the same team of doctors lead by Chief Medical Officer, Dr MY Mir where 658 Patients were examined and provided consultation besides 47 PwD were examined for UDID Card issuance.

The three-month-long "Doctor Apke Gaon Mai" initiative is designed to address the healthcare needs of underserved communities in the region, focusing on remote areas that often lack access to adequate medical resources. Recognising the urgent requirement for accessible healthcare services in far-flung regions, the "Doctor Apke Gaon Mai" initiative will deploy a team of skilled and experienced doctors to remote villages in district Kishtwar.

These medical professionals will conduct comprehensive screenings and assessments of the local residents, facilitating early detection of potential health issues and delivering necessary interventions. The primary objective of this initiative is to bridge the healthcare gap between urban and rural areas, with a particular emphasis on reaching the most vulnerable populations who face limited access to medical resources.

Through regular visits over the course of three months, "Doctor Apke Gaon Mai" aims to provide comprehensive healthcare services, including general health check-ups, diagnosis of common ailments and the provision of vital healthcare advice.