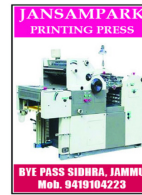




JINDRAH IMAGES



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Dilapidated footbridge poses threat to commuters in Baderwah

JNEWS SERVICE
BHADERWAH, JUL 17

A wooden footbridge, constructed over the Neeru river here about six decades ago to provide surface link to several villages, is in a highly dilapidated condition and poses a risk to commuters including students and elderly people.

The 38-metre-long bridge connecting half-a-dozen villages with Baderwah town near Rainda village in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district is in shambles with both sides of its fencing and floor damaged at many

places over the years. Besides Rainda, which is located just one kilometre from Baderwah town, the residents of Dhumanda, Dalain, Thubba, Wazir Kotli and Chabha depend on the bridge to travel outside their villages after it was constructed in 1962 using timber including



cedar from the nearby forests. "For the past 20 years, the villagers have been demanding a replacement for the damaged bridge which caters to over 2,000 population, many of whom use the bridge daily to reach their destinations and bring essen-

tials like ration from the town," Joginder Kumar (70), a resident of Rainda village, said. Villagers said they have pleaded before the authorities several times to either replace the 61-year-old damaged bridge with the steel plated one, or at least

repair it for the safety of the school going children. Roads and Buildings Department officials have carried out surveys of the bridge more than 50 times in the past two decades, rekindling hope every time that we will get a safe bridge but

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PM Modi's acknowledgement ignites pride, gratitude among Kashmiri artisans for Namda craft revival

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUL 17

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent praise for the artisans behind the revival of Kashmir's historic Namda craft has ignited a wave of joy and excitement among the talented craftsmen of the region.



In a tweet, PM Modi commended their efforts and highlighted the significance of this revival for the rich heritage of Kashmir. "Delighted that Kashmir's centuries-old 'Namda' craft is reviving and now reaching global shores after years! This is a testament to our artisans' skills and resilience. This revival is great news for our rich heritage," PM Modi tweeted on Monday. Namda, a centuries-old

craft indigenous to the valley of Kashmir, involves the creation of felted rugs and mats by layering and compressing wool fibres. The craft had faced a decline in recent years but has now experienced a remarkable resurgence, with the exquisite creations gaining recognition and demand on a global scale.

PM Modi, quoting a report on Namda exports, expressed his delight at the craft's revival and its subsequent reach to international markets. He lauded the artisans' skills and resilience, viewing their success as a testament to the rich cultural heritage of the region. The news of Prime Minister Modi's acknowledge-

ment has spread like wildfire through the artisan community in Kashmir, generating a renewed sense of pride and enthusiasm among the craftsmen. Many artisans expressed their gratitude for the recognition and credited the government's support and initiatives for the revival of the Namda craft.

Farooq Ahmad Khan, a skilled Namda artisan from Srinagar, said, "It is an absolute honour to have our Prime Minister recognize the efforts we have put into reviving this ancient craft. We have dedicated ourselves to preserving our cultural heritage, and this acknowledgement motivates us even further. The global recognition

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Amarnath Yatra 2023 3 more Amarnath pilgrims die, death toll rises to 30

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 17

Three more Amarnath pilgrims have died, taking the death toll during this year's pilgrimage in the south Kashmir Himalayas to 30, officials said on Monday.

The three pilgrims who died since Sunday morning belonged to Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Two of the pilgrims died of cardiac arrest, while the cause of the death of the third was being ascertained, the officials added.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

J&K admin sacks 3 employees for 'anti-national' activities

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 17

The Jammu and Kashmir administration has sacked three employees, including the Kashmir University public relations officer, for allegedly working with Pakistan-based militant outfits, raising finances for them and propagating their ideology, officials said on Monday.

The three employees have been identified as PRO Kashmir University Faheem Aslam, revenue department officer Murawath Hussain Mir and police constable Arshid Ahmad Thoker, they said.

The officials said the services of the three have been terminated due to a number of charges, including

for allegedly working with Pakistan-based militant outfits, providing logistics to militants, propagating militant ideology, raising finances for militancy and furthering secessionist agenda.

The government has invoked 311(2)(c) of the Constitution to sack the three government employees after the investigation established that they were acting on behalf of Pakistan's ISI and terror outfits, the officials said.

Aslam is a "diehard secessionist" who not only subscribes to and endorses the secessionist ideology, but has been a key propagandist for terrorists and terror outfits in the Kashmir Valley, they said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

India develops world's latest 'steel road' technology: Dr Jitendra Singh

JNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUL 17

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space Dr Jitendra Singh today announced that India has developed the world's latest "Steel Road" technology. He informed that CSIR - Central Road Research Institute (CRRI), New Delhi, which was founded in 1952, has pioneered the development of a revolutionary Steel slag road technology which facilitates the large-scale utilization of waste steel slag from Steel Plants in road construction.

The Minister further disclosed that in June 2022, Surat in Gujarat became the first city in the country, or perhaps world, to get a processed steel slag (industrial waste) road built as part of a joint-venture project by the Council of Scientific



and Industrial Research (CSIR), Central Road Research Institute (CRRI), Union Ministry of Steel, government think-tank NITI Aayog, and ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel (AM/NS), at Hazira. Slag is made up of impurities melted out of the ore during the steel-making process in most of the Steel Plants.

Dr Jitendra Singh said steel slag technology in paving the roads is in tune with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Waste to Wealth"

Mantra. "This innovative technological initiative also addresses the problem of environmental degradation caused by waste steel slag and unsustainable mining and quarrying of natural aggregates. CRRI has developed several key technologies for sustainable utilization of waste materials in road construction", he said.

The stretch of six-lane road experimentally paved with slag from AM/NS plant has been

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Infiltration bid foiled by Army in Poonch, 2 terrorists killed

JNEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JAMMU, JUL 17

Security forces killed two terrorists and foiled a major infiltration bid along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, a defence spokesperson said on Monday.

He said while the body of one terrorist was recovered from the site, the second ultra fell into the Poonch river after being shot.

It was a joint operation by the army and Jammu Kashmir Police carried out on the intervening night of July 16-17 in the Krishna Ghati Sector of Poonch district, he said, adding arms and ammunition



were also recovered from the site. The spokesperson said the operation was launched after the alert troops noticed suspicious movement from across the LoC towards the Indian side near the Poonch River. Army and J and K Police

personnel set up anti-infiltration posture in multiple tiers to prevent any terrorist from entering or escaping, he said. The exchange of fire began in the early hours and the two terrorists were hit.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

J&K govt to verify service records of employees whose appointment orders are not Available

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUL 17

In a significant move, the Jammu & Kashmir Government on Monday constituted a high-level committee to scrutinize/verify service records of the employees whose initial appointment orders

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

are not available.

An order states that the committee shall scrutinize/verify the entries recorded in the service books of such employees whose initial appointment orders are not forthcoming/available with reference to the other near analogous/supporting/ancillary record, which

may be available with the departments and/or their subordinate offices to establish the genuineness/veracity of the said service record.

"The committee shall, after establishing the genuineness/veracity of the records of the aforementioned employees, and make appropriate recom-

mendations to the concerned Administrative Departments for release of salaries in favour of these employees," reads the order issued by the General Administration Department (GAD).

The committee shall make specific recommendations to the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

J&K stands number one in Geo tagging of Union Ministry's CDPs

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 17

Jammu and Kashmir stands number one in Geo Tagging of Cluster Development Projects (CDPs) in the country, implemented by Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

This achievement of Jammu and Kashmir will result in faster approval of projects, timely release of funds from central government, which will result in faster growth of MSME's across J&K.

Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) is implementing Cluster Development Projects in the country including J&K through which central government's grant upto 80% is applicable for common facility centre projects

and 70% for development of Industrial Estates.

J&K has received 10 projects from Ministry of MSME for the development of Industrial Estates and Common Facility Centres (CFCs). MSME-DFO Jammu, field office of Union Ministry of MSME, takes lead role in implementation of various schemes including Cluster Development projects for the benefit of MSME sector of the region.

The total project value of CFC's and ID's in J&K is Rs. 90.73 crore approximately. Recently, the Union Ministry called for Geo Tagging all the projects under MSE-CDP for all states including J&K. An app was also developed by Ministry, used for tracking the performance, including completion, percentage of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Traffic cop among 3 killed in road accident in Srinagar

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 17

A traffic cop was among three persons killed in a road accident at Maloora Shalteng area of Srinagar, an official said.

Traffic police control room official said that a tipper driver, who lost control over his vehicle, crashed into a three-wheeler and a car near Petrol Pump Maloora this afternoon resulting in the death of three persons including a traffic police cop.

Some other persons were also injured in the incident who have been shifted to hospital for treatment.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Kedarnath Temple bans use of mobile phones and photography in premises

AGENCIES
DEHRADUN, JUL 17

Devotees have been banned from taking photographs and making videos on the premises of the Kedarnath Temple here.

The move comes after a recent video of a woman blogger proposing to her boyfriend in front of the temple went viral.

Shri Badrinath-Kedarnath Temple Committee has put up boards at vari-



ous places on the temple premises which read, "Do not enter the temple premises with mobile phones; any kind of photography and videography

is strictly prohibited inside the temple and you are under the surveillance of CCTV cameras".

The temple has also asked the people to wear

"decent clothes" and desist from setting up tents or camps in the temple precincts.

The boards, written in Hindi and English, also state that legal action will be taken against those not following the orders.

Shri Badrinath-Kedarnath Temple Committee president Ajendra Ajay said a religious space follows a set of belief system and the devotees should respect the same.

Strong protest held against installation of smart meters and power outages in RS Pura

Owing to skyrocketing prices of essentials, unable to afford huge electricity bills: Narinder



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 17: Social Activist and PDP Media Coordinator Jammu District Narinder Sharma today led strong protest against the installation of smart meters and power outages, with locals slamming the government over rising power tariffs. Scores of men, women and children blocked RS Pura road at Kotli Shah Doola. They staged demonstrations against the installation of smart electric meters and raised slogans against the

PDD. The protesting people claimed that after installation of smart meters in the area, they are unable to pay the excessive bills generated by the devices. "We already have meters installed in our homes and we are paying regular bills. What is the fun of installing new meters?" protesters asked. Protesters blocked the main road leading to traffic jam in the vicinity for about three hours. However, after police intervened, the protestors dispersed peacefully. Speaking on the occasion, Narinder

Sharma said most of household budget is already stressed owing to the skyrocketing prices of essentials, and they would be unable to meet any additional expenses. "They are poor families here, and majority of our men are in private sector and making both ends meet with lot of difficulty. After meters were installed, they are unable to afford the bills," he said. "No one is rich enough to afford the enormous electricity costs. Something should be done for the underprivileged so that they can get some relief," Sharma remarked. "We already have meters installed in our homes and we are paying regular bills. What is the fun of installing new meters?" Sharma asked. He appealed to the Lieutenant Governor-led administration and Deputy Commissioner Jammu to reconsider the decision of installing smart meters in the area. We are a middle-class family and don't have that much money to pay for these meters. Those meters which have already been installed in our areas must be removed." He said that even the current bills are not easy to pay given their financial conditions and questioned how they would be able to pay huge bills. He said, "we are not getting the power supply for hours in a day still the department is delivering us tariff bills."

Zorawar, Mahant Rajesh release devotional Dogri bhajan "Paddar Machaila Jana"

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 17: Chairman, Team Jammu and BJP leader, Zorawar Singh Jamwal along with Mahant Rajesh Giri today jointly released devotional Dogri bhajan "Paddar Machaila Jana" during a function organized at Press Club, here today.

The devotional album was presented by PCI Folks Music and Soulmates Event has been written and sung by noted folksinger Ashok Sanasariya of Sanasar, star cast Renu Khuggar of Kurukshetra, Rajesh Mahajan, senior supermodel India, music by Ash K, produced and directed by Amit Mahajan, Director, PCI Folks Music. Sincerely, Rotary Club, Jammu, Jasvinder Singh Kukku, BJP, District, Jammu Urban, vice-president, Karan Singh and Raminder K Kaur, Astro-Numerologist were Guests of Honour on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman, Team Jammu and BJP leader,



Zorawar Singh Jamwal congratulated the entire team of devotional video album "Paddar Machaila Jana" and hoped that this will make waves in music industry, besides, is liked by netizens and people across the country. He appreciated the tireless efforts of produced director Amit Mahajan for encouraging Dogri language and culture in the shape of video album. Team Jammu chief, Zorawar Singh Jamwal asserted that Jammu and

Kashmir UT government must open its door to the world of music industry besides film industry and ensure its presence felt here in a big way. He said that there is dire need to provide a platform to budding singers to further harness their talent. He said that the devotional album made by these popular artists especially Ashok Sanasariya is the greatest example of their intellectual, creativity and latent ability that needs to be harnessed for

their optimal self-actualization. Mahant Rajesh Bittu in his address said that the youth who are engaged in such activities should be encouraged both by the Government and social organizations. He said that the participation of youth in such devotional and spiritual activities will not only keep away the youth from indulging in social crimes but will also keep them in good health and sound mind.

Country witnessed tremendous development under 9 yrs of Modi regime: Col Mahan

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 17: Col Mahan Singh, District Development Council (DDC) Chairman of Kathua, today asserted that the remarkable progress witnessed in Jammu and Kashmir under the nine-year tenure of the Modi regime. He emphasized that the sustained efforts and visionary policies put forth by the Modi government have positively uplifted the socio-economic landscape of Jammu and Kashmir.

The DDC Chairman was speaking while chairing a series of meetings at Domar, Shuara, Jameli and Their areas of Keedian Gandyal Block of Kandri region under the ongoing "Sampark Se Samarthan Abhiyan".

The DDC Chairman was accompanied by Shanti Bushan, BJP Mandal Pradhan, Mohinder Singh, Bans Lal, Kehar Singh, and other BJP workers. The primary objective of these meetings was to highlight the key achievements of the Modi Government over the past 9 years and to understand the concerns and grievances of the residents.

Earlier, the DDC



Chairman was accorded warm welcome by residents during Nukkad Sabhas and interaction with key voters. The residents raised various issues like road connectivity, Shortage of drinking water and low voltage, healthcare etc. in this landlocked region adjoining Ranjit Sagar Dam reservoir. Col Mahan Singh said "Under the Modi regime, the country has witnessed the utmost importance given to the development of every region, including Jammu and Kashmir."

The DDC Chairman specifically highlighted the achievements in Kathua district, which has witnessed substantial progress

in key areas such as road connectivity, healthcare facilities, education, and agriculture. The construction of new roads and bridges has improved accessibility and connectivity within the district, promoting trade and tourism. The healthcare infrastructure has been strengthened with the establishment of new medical facilities, enhancing access to quality healthcare services for the residents.

The education sector has witnessed significant improvements with the establishment of new schools and colleges, providing better educational opportunities to the youth of the district.

Furthermore, the agricultural sector has been supported through various schemes and initiatives, enabling farmers to enhance their productivity and income.

The DDC Chairman urged the people to continue supporting the Modi government and its vision for the region's development. He emphasized the need for collective efforts to elevate the state's progress to new heights and build a prosperous future for the coming generations.

The DDC Chairman assured the residents that he would take up the issued putforth by them with the authorities concerned.

Second Edition of Pagah Theatre Festival culminates with spectacular theatrical brilliance

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 17: The highly anticipated Pagah Theatre Festival Second Edition 2023, presented by Vomedh in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (JKAACL), reached its grand finale today at Tagore Hall in Srinagar. The festival, which commenced on July 10, showcased an extraordinary lineup of performances, celebrating the rich cultural heritage of Kashmir through the power of theatre. The highlight of the second edition was the focus on folk theatre along with contemporary modern theatre. The encouragement that the folk artists received through the second edition of Pagah was highly appreciated by artists fraternity in Kashmir.

The closing day of the festival was graced by the presence of Khalid Tufail, General Secretary of Kashmir Province (DPAP), who attended as the esteemed Chief Guest. Tufail's presence added a touch of honor and distinction to the event, emphasizing the importance of

moting and preserving the arts in the region.

The play staged on the final day was "Mouj," presented by the renowned Mehak Dramatic Club. Under the direction of Farhat Sidiqi, "Mouj" offered a captivating exploration of emotions, presenting a poignant narrative that resonated deeply with the audience. The performance showcased the exceptional talent of the actors and the dedication of the entire production team.

Reflecting on the success of the festival, Rakesh Roshan Bhat, Festival Director of Vomedh, expressed his gratitude, stating, "The Pagah Theatre Festival has once again exceeded our expectations, offering a platform for the diverse artistic expressions of Kashmir. We are immensely proud of the incredible talent showcased throughout the week, and we thank all the participating groups for their exceptional performances."

Rohit Bhat, Festival Director and Founder/President of Vomedh, added, "The overwhelming response from the audience and the support of our esteemed guests

have made this festival a resounding success. It has been a privilege to witness the celebration of our cultural heritage through the medium of theatre, and we are grateful to all who have contributed to its success."

The closing day also marked a special felicitation ceremony, where the exceptional contributions of artists and theatre groups were acknowledged and celebrated. Chief Guest Khalid Tufail presented awards and expressed his appreciation for the immense talent and dedication demonstrated by the performers.

As the festival comes to a close, it is worth reflecting on the remarkable plays staged throughout the week. From the captivating "Bakarwaal Paather" by Kashmiri Bhagat Theatre to the thought-provoking "Raze Paather" by DilKash Folk Theatre, each per-

formance showcased the richness and diversity of Kashmiri theatre. The audience was treated to a range of compelling productions, including "Darze Paather" by Nund-I-Reishi Folk Theatre, "Mokjar" by SMS Cultural Forum, "Bochi" by Feroze Cultural Forum, and "Mele Kane" by Azad Dramatic Cultural Club. Each play brought to life unique stories and themes, leaving an indelible impact on the hearts and minds of the attendees.

The event was ably anchored by Rashid Nizami in his inimitable style. This event was supported by Manzoor Ahmad Mir, Zulfam Barjee, Zafer Mir, Gaura, Arshad Nuvshare, Farhad Siddiqui & Asha the care foundation, Mrs Asha Saraf & Ashok Saraf Charitable Trust to pull off the spectacular weeklong event.

CGPWA organises workshop on Marma Therapy by Dr Gulvani of Pune



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 17: The Central Govt pensioners' Welfare Association, Jammu today organised a Workshop-Interactive session on Holistic Healing and Marma Therapy for its members. Dr. Satish Gulvani of Arogya Yoga & Naturopathy Institute, Pune, who was the keynote speaker, explained the benefits of the Marma Therapy which has roots in Indian civilization. It is a part of Ayurveda that helps to maintain health by cleansing blocked energy. The word Marma has Sanskrit origin 'Mri Manarane' which means hidden or secret.

The President of the Association, Kuldeep Khoda presided over the session.

Dr Gulvani, who is invited by the CGPWA to Jammu to benefit people of Jammu, apprised the members that the human body has 107 primary Marma Points but in some scriptures these are 117. There are many secondary Marma points. These Marma points cover the front back of the body. Thirty-seven points are on the head and neck, 22 each are on the arm and lower extremities and 12 on the chest & stomach. These points are junctures on the body where two or more types of tissues meet like muscles, veins, ligaments, bones, or joints. Lot of research, funded by the Central Govt also, is being conducted on this Therapy where no medicines are given. Marma points correspond to seven chakras which are energy centres of

the body. These points range in sizes of one to six inches in diameter. These points are mapped out in detail in the classic Ayurvedic text known as the Sushruta Samhita.

Dr. Gulvani explained under this therapy, a very light stimulation of points is done to remove blockages from the Marma points that would give physical and psychological relaxation. It is a powerful process and the therapy works with subtle & sensitive energy and on 'nardi praksha' (pulse examination) the energy channels in the body called 'srotas' are opened. Marma points, when gently pressed on the skin, can stimulate a chain of positive events. In this manner, all diseases including chronic ones, are treated effectively.

On the request of the Association, Dr Gulvani is staying, put at Jammu for about ten days and patients can fix appointments for free treatment with him through V. K Sambhal, member Executive Committee, CGPWA and former Director AIR Jammu on his mobile number 9682949196. Dr. Gulvani would be examining patients at the residence of Shri Sambhal, at Jyotirputri Ashram, village Chaalrani, Majeran Panchayat, Aitham, near Tutan Di kbrui on Sidhra Surinard road cross long bridge on Javata -Chalani Road.

Tributes paid to GI Dogra on 108th birth anniversary

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 17: Former Member Legislative Council Subash Gupta paid rich tributes to former finance minister & Member of Parliament Shri Girdhari Lal Dogra on his 108th birth anniversary next to statue of Shri Girdhari Lal Dogra at Hiranagar Mor on Monday.

A large number of people were present to pay homage to the veteran leader who was known for his simplicity and dedicated service to the people.

While addressing the gathering, Gupta recalled the contribution of Shri Dogra Sahib towards the development of the state. He especially highlighted his humility and dedicated service towards poor and deprived section of society, saying one needs to learn from the example set by him to serve the people. He said that Dogra was a leader of the masses and always remained connected with the people's problems and worked for their redressal throughout his life. Mr Gupta further said that we feel proud that such a great leader was born here at village Bhuya Tehsil Hiranagar. Prominent among those who paid tributes are S/Shri Yougal Kishore Babi, Anant Ram Dogra, Parveen Kumar Bhagot, Narinder Rathore, Sal Pal Master, Ashok Kumar Sharma, Pawan Gupta, Karam Chand Master, Tara Chand Sharma, Thuru Ram Mehra, Pola Padha, Thuru Ram Sharma, Sushel Kumar Sharma, Dev Raj Sharma and so many others.

G20		NORTHERN RAILWAY		E-TENDER NOTICE	
Sr. DSTERFZC for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender Notice no. 433-Sig-T-14-23-24 Closing Date/Time: 07.08.2023 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.					
Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on REPS portal like Net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.					
NIT HEADER					
Contract Type		Works			
Name of Work		1. Provision of Fire Extinguisher, Automatic Fire Detection and Alarm System at SAT equipments rooms of RR/PI/VEI stations over Firozpur Division.			
2. Replacement of Non RSDSO type Fire Alarm system with RSDSO type Automatic Fire detection and alarm at RR/PI/VEI stations over Firozpur Division.		3. Provision of Road Signals at mid-section interlocked L-xing gates over Firozpur division.			
Tender type	Open (E-tendering)	Bidding System	Single Packet System		
Tender Closing Date/Time	07.08.2023 15:00	Date/Time of Uploading Tender	11.07.2023 18:18		
Advertised Value (Rs.)	(i) 74933238.44 (ii) 82888239.80 (iii) 6733754.42	Bidding Start Date as per IREPS	24.07.2023		
Tender Doc. Cost (Rs.)	NIL	Tendering Section	SIGNAL		
Earnest Money (Rs.)	(i) 524770.00 (ii) 565000.00 (iii) 134700.00	Period of Completion	6 Months		
Bidding Style	Single Rate for Tender	Validity of Offer (Days)	60 days		
Tender Notice No: 433-Sig-T-14-23-24 Closing Date/Time: 07.08.2023 15:00 Dated: 17.07.2023 2194/2023					
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE					

Work with compassion to resolve people's problems: MP Khatana



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 17: BJP MP Rajai Sabha Er Gulam Ali Khatana today urged the employees to work with compassion to resolve the issues of the common man and serve the humanity. He said that people of Jammu and Kashmir has suffered mis-governance due to corrupt governments led by three dynasties which has totally shattered the economy and progress of the UT.

MP Khatana said that LG administration is trying hard to bring the system back on rails but the blunders committed by the erstwhile governments will take time to rectify. He said that mess in the education department, daily wagers, need based, casual employees in PHE dept are huge challenges for the UT administration. MP Khatana today chaired meeting of NHIA and reviewed the progress of the various projects being undertaken by the NHIA. Project Director Jammu YPS Jadon briefed the MP on various stages of the NHIA projects. Later, a delegation of JKML Retired Employees Association led by its chairman called on BJP MP Rajai Sabha Er Gulam Ali Khatana here today and sought his immediate intervention in settling the long pending problems of retired JKML employees regarding release of their retirement dues i.e COLA arrears etc.

The delegation demanded that the retirement dues be settled at an earliest on the pattern of VR scheme already implemented in JKML.

The delegation demanded that the pending dues of retirees be released with out any further delay as without any pensionary benefits they are unable to perform their social obligations.

The delegation said that workers are suffering on this account for years together.

Others who were present on the occasion are Khadam Hussain, Mohd Aslam, Juginder Singh Thakur, Ashwani Kumar, Chaman Lal, Arun Kumar, Baldev Singh, Tej Ram and Karnal Singh.

Kavinder hails termination of 3 Govt employees implicated in terror activities

Says Modi Govt has "Zero Tolerance Policy" against terrorism

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 17: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta today welcomed the dismissal from service of three government employees for their alleged terror links.

The senior BJP leader endorsed the government's decision of sacking the three employees after it was established that they were over ground workers having links with the Pakistan-based militant outfits.

"Like in the present case anyone found involved in such crimes will face the same fate and will have to confront the law of the land," he said, adding "the days of delinquent dispensations have gone now as no one having a slightest link with the terror edifice will be spared." Under the Modi regime, he said there is zero tolerance for anti-national activities.

Pertinent to mention here that the three government employees, including the Kashmiri University Public Relations Officer, were dismissed from service



ice on Monday for their alleged links with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir.

The BJP leader said those picking up guns must remember that security forces have been given free hand by the Prime Minister to "eliminate the terrorists at the first sight".

"The BJP government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi will wipe out terrorism from the soil of Jammu and Kashmir as under this regime terror-mongers have to either die or live behind bars," he said.

The former deputy Chief Minister emphasized that people should avail the

benefit of government schemes to live a life full of dignity and pride and play a pivotal role in nation building rather than wasting lives after getting swayed by the propaganda unleashed by Pakistan against the Indian government.

Meanwhile, Kavinder Gupta today released a video album 'Tum Ko Jo Pa Liya' in a function held at Press Club Jammu. The event was graced by Mahant Rohit Shastri and BJP leaders Arvind Gupta, Zoravar Singh Jamwal, and Rohit Dubey.

The album, featuring Kishan Chatwal and

Pyariniyari, was sung by Kishan Chatwal with lyrics by Sunil Sharma. The music was composed by Piyush Ranjan and produced by Vishal Chatwal and Vikas Chatwal. The album was directed by Rohan Vaid, with Akhtar Manzoori as the Director of Photography and Anuj Yadav as the Operative Cameraman. The Publicity Division was handled by S.K Photography, and the program was graced by Darun Kesar.

Kavinder Gupta praised the entire team involved in creating the video album for their hard work and dedication.

Awareness programme on "Development of Post Cocoon Technology" held

J I NEWS SERVICE

POONCH, JUL 17: Poonch Campus University of Jammu organized Awareness Programme on Development of Post Cocoon Technology here today. The Awareness Programme was organized in collaboration with Silk Technology Service Centre, CSRTI Central Silk Board, Ministry of Textiles Govt of India Miran Sahib, Jammu.



Dr. N.S Gahlot, Scientist-D (R&S)/Zonal Officer Silk Technology Service Centre, CSRTI Central Silk Board, Ministry of Textiles Govt of India Miran Sahib, Jammu who is on three day visit to border district Poonch was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Present on the occasion were Mr Bharat Bhushan Senior Technical Assistant CSRTI, Dr Rubia Bukhari Campus Officer Poonch Campus, Dr Suraksha Chanotra, Dr Muszafar Ahmad Bhat, Ms Kalpa Sudan, Ms Sumya Kapoor, Students and non teaching staff members; Mr Mohd Arshad, Mr Mohd Sagher and Mr Sandeep Kumar from the Department of Sericulture, Poonch Campus.

In his message, the Director Poonch Campus Prof. Rakesh Vaid thanked Dr. N.S Gahlot, Scientist-D (R&S)/Zonal Officer Silk Technology Service Centre, CSRTI Central Silk Board, Ministry of Textiles Govt of India Miran Sahib, Jammu for organizing such Awareness Programme in collaboration with Poonch Campus University of Jammu. He said that the new technology

promises to reduce labour, improve silk quality, conserve water and cut down pollution. "With this, they will make sares, besides using silk in medicine, cosmetics and nutraceutical purposes. He further hoped that in future also, CSRTI will organize such programmes at Poonch Campus which will not only help the students but also the registered farmers of the district.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr N.S Gahlot explained and emphasized the significance of producing high-quality cocoons for the production of raw silk that can be graded. He emphasized the need for extra care for cocoons during spinning and after harvesting and provided an explanation of the necessary drying processes for improving raw silk and cocoons on both a quantitative and qualitative level.

He presented a power slide presentation that included various defective cocoon varieties, cocoon sorting before marketing, and various reeling devices.

He further explained how to minimize the percentage of defective

cocoons by using proper montages materials appropriate for this area. Bharat Bhushan (STA), Jammu presented a detailed lecture on Importance of Post Cocoon Technology and how to improve the quality of raw silk for the participants.

Dr Rubia Bukhari in her address exhorted the participants to use innovative techniques in the field as explained by the Scientist. She thanked Dr N.S Gahlot for his valuable guidance given during the programme. She thanked CSRTI especially Dr N.S Gahlot for organizing this awareness programme on very important topic.

The programme was followed by an interactive session. The participants put up various queries to the Dr N.S Gahlot. Their doubts were cleared to their entire satisfaction.

The Students of the Department of Sericulture, Poonch Campus expressed that the programme has helped them in enhancing their knowledge level.

Dr. Rubia Bukhari presented the formal vote of thanks.

YCET Faculty Contributes Groundbreaking Chapter to Springer's Latest Publication

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 17: Yogananda college of Engineering & Technology is delighted to announce the exceptional achievement of one of its esteemed faculty member Er. Loveneesh Talwar who has contributed a groundbreaking chapter to a prestigious book published by Springer, one of the world's leading academic publishing companies.

The chapter titled "Pandemic Effect of COVID-19: Identification, Present Scenario and Preventive Measures" is a remarkable addition to the esteemed publication, and it exemplifies YCET's commitment to producing cutting-edge research and fostering academic excellence.

Springer's "Temporal and Spatial Environmental Impact of Covid -19 Pandemic", which was released in July 2023, brings together renowned experts and researchers from various

disciplines to explore the latest advancements and discoveries in their respective fields. Er. Loveneesh Talwar contribution significantly enriches this collective effort, shedding new light on the Pandemic Effect of COVID-19.

Er. Loveneesh Talwar has been a prominent member of YCET faculty, demonstrating an unwavering dedication to research and teaching over the years. Their expertise and commitment to advancing knowledge have made a lasting impact on our institution's academic community and beyond. Management YCET expressed pride in Loveneesh Talwar's exceptional achievement, stating, "Loveneesh Talwar inclusion in Springer's "Pandemic Effect of COVID-19: Identification, Present Scenario and Preventive Measures" reflects the caliber of research and academic excellence fostered here at YCET. We are proud to have such

distinguished faculty members who contribute significantly to their fields and promote our institution's reputation as a center of knowledge and innovation. The publication of Loveneesh Talwar chapter in Springer's "Temporal and Spatial Environmental Impact of Covid -19 Pandemic" further solidifies YCET position as a leading academic institution, dedicated to advancing the frontiers of knowledge and empowering its faculty to be at the forefront of research and scholarly pursuits.

Jamwal Group of Educational Institutions (JGEI), Jammu Chairman Er. Vidhi S. Singh Jamwal, Vice-Chairman Sh. Shiv Dev Singh Janwal and Managing Director Er. Renu Bangroo, Director YCET Dr. Mukesh Kumar Rana Dean Academics Er. Dinesh Gupta and Chief Coordinator Er. B.R Verma congratulated YCET Faculty for this great and innovative achievement.

Govt committed to provide 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal': Bharat Bhushan

KICK-STARTS WSS GHAIK NADWAL WORTH RS 1.4 CRORE

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 17: The BJP led Government at the Centre is implementing the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in partnership with states and union territories to ensure every rural household in the country has functional household tap connection for drinking water in adequate quantity of prescribed quality on regular and long-term basis leading to improvement in their living standards.

This was stated by DDC Jammu Chairman Bharat Bhushan Bahl while starting the work of Water Supply Scheme Ghaink Nadwal in presence of PRI members and prominent people of the area. Kuldeep Raj, BDC, Sarpanch Ashok Singh, Panch Rajni Devi, Panch Mohammad Iqbal, Naib Sarpanch Aman Sharma, Ganesh Dass, Subash Chander, Ashok Kerri, Vipran Sharma, Narinder Singh and officials of Jal Shakti Department Sahil Sargotra and Arun Kapoor were also present.

Pertinent to mention here the government has sanctioned Rs 5.76 crore for



WSS Ghaink Nadwal out of which development work worth Rs 1.40 crore was started today under the aforesaid scheme under the Central Government's prestigious scheme Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), aiming to provide 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal'. This project included repair & replacement of old machinery, motor room, stand by machinery, retaining wall, augmentation of distribution system and sump tank in the area to fulfill the shortage of water scarcity.

While addressing the gathering, the DDC Chairman reiterated the commitment of the Union Govt led by PM Narendra Modi to provide basic

necessities to the people in every nook and corner of the nation especially the rural and far flung areas. He reiterated his commitment to ensure overall development of district Jammu with special emphasis on rural and far-off areas. He assured that besides development of the area, besides the benefits of various schemes meant for the socio-economic upliftment of the poor and needy reach the doorsteps of the people. He said only then we can say that the objective of good governance has been achieved.

Asserting that it is the prime duty of the Govt to ensure that these basic necessities are available to

the people quite easily, the DDC Chairman asserted that BJP Government at the Centre is fully committed to provide all the basic necessities of life to the people irrespective of caste, creed, colour, political or other affiliations.

The senior BJP leader further directed the workers to take the achievements of Narendra Modi led Central Government to every house of district Jammu and also asked the workers to reach out to every house and every person to make them aware about the Modi Government's achievements in the past nine years.

Vibodh slams Omar, Mufti for glorifying rioters of July 13

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 17: In a meeting held at the BJP office, Jammu, BJP J&K General Secretary and former MLC, Vibodh Gupta, criticised the National Conference for promoting a false narrative surrounding July 13, 1931, and celebrating it as Martyr's Day. He also directed his criticism towards National Conference leader Omar Abdullah for recognizing the rioters who caused havoc against minorities in Srinagar on that day as martyrs.

Furthermore, Vibodh strongly demanded an apology from Abdullah for glorifying these individuals responsible for the killing and looting of Hindu Kashmiri Pandits, considering them heroes in the eyes of the National Conference. He accused Maharaja Hari Singh, "stated Vibodh.



suit their communal and divisive politics. "The false narrative being promoted to celebrate July 13 as the black day is a deliberate attempt to incite hatred against Jammu and Hindu Kashmiri Pandits, considering them heroes in the eyes of the National Conference. He accused Maharaja Hari Singh," stated Vibodh.

Vibodh emphasised that the people of Jammu would never tolerate any disrespect shown towards Maharaja Hari Singh. He also highlighted that the myth surrounding July 13 as Martyr's Day has been debunked, as it cancelled the state holiday.

Vibodh called upon the

people of J&K to reject these false narratives and work towards fostering unity, harmony, and respect for all communities in the region. He emphasised the importance of acknowledging historical truths and promoting a shared vision of progress and inclusivity for the betterment of J&K.

Dy Mayor starts construction work of lane & drain at Ward 45



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 17: Continuing the campaign to provide better development as well as basic facilities to the people of Jammu, Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria, started the construction work of lane & drain at Ward 45 Digiana in RS Pura-Jammu South constituency.

This development work will be done under the supervision of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC). Deputy Mayor Baldev Singh Billawaria said Rs. 120.00 Lacs amount of money has been earmarked for the improvement and progress of that particular ward. The funds can be utilized for various development projects such as infrastructure upgrades, maintenance, expansion, or any other measures that would enhance the facilities.

Deputy Mayor Baldev Singh Billawaria said that demands from public of Digiana ward No. 45 will be done on priority basis and necessary instructions will be issued to the engineering department for preparing the estimates, the public of the said area said that the Deputy Mayor is showing a proactive approach towards addressing the issue, this may involve initiatives such as infrastructure upgrades, maintenance, expansion, or any other measures that would enhance the facilities.

Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria said that this was a long pending demand of the local people and now the demand has to be fulfilled. He said that this lane adjoins with the other lanes of the said ward, now with the construction of this lane, will also get relief during the rainy season. Deputy Mayor Jammu said, "We are committed to the development of Ward

No 45. The construction of new lanes and drains is just the first step in our efforts to improve the infrastructure of the area. We will continue to work towards the betterment of the Ward and its residents." The Deputy Mayor also added that all developmental works will be completed in a time-bound manner and strict quality control measures will be implemented to ensure that the construction meets the required standards and good quality of work.

The Deputy Mayor further said that the JMC is taking all the necessary steps to ensure that the amenities of the citizens are not compromised.

He said that the JMC is committed to provide the best possible services to the citizens of Digiana and this developmental project is a step forward in that direction.

Deputy Mayor, Baldev Singh Billawaria said that Jammu Municipal Corporation is committed

to develop all the areas of City of temples. He said that Jammu Municipal Corporation follows the footsteps of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and is carrying the policy of Sabka sath, Sabka vikas, Sabka Vishwas, aur Sabka prayas. Some of the key projects that have been completed in Ward No 45 over the last four years include the construction of new roads, installation of street lights, and the provision of improved waste management services.

BJP district president, Jammu South, Rekha Mahajan said that hundreds of souls of Digiana and its adjoining areas will be benefited. Interacting with the people, Rekha Mahajan said that developmental programmes have been launched in every constituency of BJP Jammu district South with the aim to provide better amenities to them. She apprised the people about the unmatched achievements of the Modi government during the nine years. She appreciated the working style of Deputy Mayor Jammu Baldev Singh Billawaria and urged him to continue working in the service of the public. The people have expressed gratitude to Deputy Mayor Baldev Singh Billawaria for starting the construction work of the lane and drain at Digiana Ward No. 45. Mandal President Ranjeet Singh, Bharat Bhatnagar, Satpal Choudhary, Narendra Gupta (Koki), Vinod Sharma, Jugal Kishore and others were present.

NC strongly condemns BJP's abusive language towards senior party functionaries

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 17: Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, Jammu, strongly condemned the abusive language used by the BJP leader against the senior functionaries of the Party.

In a statement issued here today, the senior NC leader said "It is regrettable that the outsider BJP leader, who appointed as the Prabhari of Jammu and Kashmir, is unaware of the significant contributions made by the National Conference towards the welfare of the state and its people. He (Chug) must be educated himself on such matters and uphold the principles of ethical politics before issuing such irrelevant press statements."

Rattan Lal Gupta emphasized that abusive language and personal attacks against individuals who have held high positions such as former Chief Minister and the leader of a prominent political party, should not

PM Modi, Shah should advise their functionaries to refrain from using derogatory language: Rattan Lal

be tolerated in a democratic society. Such behavior undermines the spirit of healthy political discourse and reflects poorly on those who engage in it, he added.

Gupta apprised the BJP leader that Maharaja Hari Singh's 1927 State Subject Law and Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah's 'Land to the Tiller' were a shield which ensured that everyone in J&K had a home to live and grain to eat and nobody was shelterless, nobody slept hungry. That protection should be provided to the people of Jammu and Kashmir particularly the poor, downtrodden and disadvantaged, he said, adding that it was the BJP who abrogated the Art 370 Unconstitutionally and illegally from Jammu and Kashmir for which the people of J&K will never forgive the Saffron Party.

The Provincial President asked the

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, recognizing the importance of maintaining decorum in political discourse, to advise their functionaries to refrain from using derogatory and disrespectful language when referring to the political stalwarts of Jammu and Kashmir.

He called upon all political parties and their representatives to uphold the values of respect, dignity, and civility in public discourse. "We believe that a constructive dialogue and mutual understanding are essential for the progress and prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir. We hope that this incident serves as a reminder to the Saffron Party to prioritize the interests of the people and engage in respectful and meaningful debates that contribute to the betterment of our society," he added.

Modi Government ensure safety of Hindus & Temples in Pakistan: Shiv Sena

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 17: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit strongly condemned the heinous acts targeting a 150-year-old Hindu temple in the main city of Karachi as well as the rocket launcher attack on a Hindu temple in Sindh, both carried out by Pakistan.

Taking serious note of these despicable acts, Shiv Sena sought that the Modi Government should take immediate steps to ensure the security of Hindus and temples in Pakistan, as well as the arrest and thorough interrogation of Seema Haider, who unlawfully infiltrated the Indian border.

Addressing a press conference at Party's Headquarters in Jammu today, Manish Sahani, President Shiv Sena J&K



stated that Hindus and religious sites in Pakistan are continuously being targeted. The Hindu population in Pakistan is rapidly decreasing, and there has been a surge in attacks on Hindu temples, he said.

Sahni appealed to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take a strong stance on this act by Pakistan and immediately engage in talks with the Pakistan government to

ensure the safety of Hindus and religious sites.

He also sought a complete severance of all relations with Pakistan and the immediate arrest and extradition of the infiltrator Seema Haider, who brazenly trespassed into the Indian border using illegal means.

Sahni emphasized that such reprehensible acts of cross-border infiltrations can be dealt with and put

an end to, setting an example for others, perhaps better than anyone else. "Shiv Sena stands firm in its commitment to protect the interests and rights of Hindus and their religious freedom," he added.

Shiv Sena called for the immediate attention of the Modi Government to address this matter and ensure the safety and security of Hindus and temples in Pakistan, while also demanding the arrest and extradition of Seema Haider.

Sahani emphasized that Shiv Sena will continue to stand united in the fight against any injustice or threat to the Hindu community and will take all necessary measures to safeguard their interests. On this occasion president Kamgar wing Raj Singh, Mangru Ram were present.

Chandrayaan-3: India's growing prowess in space exploration, says Nitish

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 17: Nitish Mahajan, Co-Incharge of the Social Media Department of BJP in Jammu and Kashmir, today commended the Modi government for the remarkable success of the Chandrayaan-3 mission, terming it as a proud moment for the entire nation and a testament to India's growing prowess in the field of space exploration.

In a statement issued here today, the senior BJP leader highlighted the significant achievements of the Modi government in advancing India's space program and fostering scientific innovation. He emphasizes that under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has witnessed remarkable progress in various spheres, including space research and technology.

Nitish Mahajan said the successful



launch of Chandrayaan-3 demonstrates India's commitment to exploring the mysteries of the moon and expanding our knowledge of the universe. He acknowledged the tireless efforts and dedication of the scientists, engineers, and all those involved in making this mission a resounding success.

Mahajan further stated that the suc-

cessful launch of Chandrayaan-3 is a reflection of the government's unwavering support for scientific research and development. The Modi government has consistently prioritized the advancement of India's space program, providing the necessary resources and infrastructure for our scientists and researchers to excel, he said.

Furthermore, Nitish Mahajan highlighted the impact of this achievement on the nation's youth. It serves as a reminder that with determination and dedication, dreams can be turned into reality.

Mahajan expressed confidence in the future of India's space program under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He reiterated the government's commitment to supporting and promoting scientific research and innovation for the progress and prosperity of the nation.

Ravinder Raina serves legal notice to Surinder Choudhary; seeks apology for false allegations to tarnish his image

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 17: Ravinder Raina, President, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu and Kashmir president on Monday served a legal defamation notice to former MLC Surinder Choudhary for levelling baseless allegations against him with the sole aim to defame his (Raina's) reputation within the party and the masses.

Choudhary's remarks coincided with his joining National Conference after quitting BJP. He had over year-long association with the national party. Choudhary had earlier quit Peoples Democratic Party before joining BJP.

Raina, in his legal notice, sought an unconditional apology from Choudhary within a week for his (Choudhary's) attempts to

damage his (Raina's) reputation among the masses and the party ranks, warning of a defamation suit worth Rs five crore against the politician after the expiry of the deadline.

In the legal notice, Navvug Sethi, J&K High Court lawyer, representing Ravinder Raina said the intentional defamation of his client was a designed move coinciding with the joining of Choudhary in National Conference and his client has suffered serious damage to his name, reputation and goodwill besides suffering from mental trauma.

"You may choose any political party that suits your ambition, yet the choice of words in the tweet on July 11 are purely inappropriate, rather defamatory to my clients and the BJP, despite you

knowing well that my client was not involved in any of the alleged acts," the legal notice read.

Poonch Education Department starts Online Classes for secondary & Sr Secondary classes

JJ NEWS SERVICE

POONCH, JULY 17: To overcome shortage of teaching staff, education Department Poonch has taken a proactive step towards ensuring continuous education for students. The Department has embraced online classes as a means to bridge the gap in teaching and maintain the quality of education.

In an online meeting organized by the District Resource Group Poonch, Headmasters and School Nodal Officers (SNOs) of ICT labs discussed the action plan to start online classes. The meeting was attended by Bishamber Dass, Chief Education Officer and N.M.

Suri, DEPO Poonch, who provided guidance and support to address the challenges faced by schools.

The core concerns highlighted during the meeting was the shortage of teaching faculty in certain areas, leading to disruptions in the teaching-learning process. In response to this pressing issue, the Poonch Education Department devised a multi-faceted approach.

To tackle network issues and technical snags experienced by some schools, the department decided to provide video lectures and PowerPoint presentations (PPTs) in key subjects such as Mathematics, English, and Science. By offering pre-recorded

lectures and PPTs, schools facing internet connectivity challenges can facilitate uninterrupted learning, ensuring that students have access to quality educational content at all times.

In addition to content support, the department recognizes the significance of a skilled teaching faculty to effectively manage online classes. To empower SNOs and subject experts, special training sessions will be organized at the zonal level next week. These workshops will equip educators with the necessary skills to navigate online teaching platforms, address technical issues, and optimize the use of video lectures and PPTs for effective classroom delivery.

During the meeting, Chief Education Officer Sh. Bishamber Dass stressed the importance of leveraging ICT labs in schools for educational purposes. He urged Headmasters to utilize the available technology to enhance the teaching process and ensure that the potential of ICT resources is fully realized.

The participating Headmasters also had the opportunity to share their experiences and concerns related to online teaching. Network issues emerged as a significant challenge, affecting the smooth conduct of virtual sessions. Technical assistance for ICT labs and specialized training for

New SNOs and subject teachers were also highlighted as key requirements to improve online education delivery.

In response, N.M. Suri, DEPO Poonch, emphasized the need to address the functioning of all ICT labs in winter zones. He encouraged Headmasters to embrace the use of ICT tools for teaching purposes, underscoring the importance of adapting to the evolving educational landscape.

The Poonch Education Department's proactive efforts to promote online classes and provide necessary support to schools demonstrate their commitment to ensuring quality education for students.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

Health sector needs better treatment

Even as millions have been spent over the years to have better infrastructure, health infrastructure and manpower continue to receive least attention in Jammu and Kashmir with the UT's major health institutions grappling with shortage of doctors and paramedical staff. Almost 50 percent of the sanctioned posts are vacant in Government Medical College and Hospital Jammu while, the lone Super Speciality Hospital, which is the part of GMCH, too has been facing a major manpower crunch as over 100 posts of doctors are vacant in the hospital. All these issues are the least priorities of authorities but they are more focused on beautification of the hospital premises. There are fewer opportunities for fresh recruitments while constant rate of retirements have made under-staffed hospitals of Jammu region more vulnerable to acute shortage of manpower and healthcare professions. Despite expansion of infrastructure and opening of nine new medical colleges across Jammu and Kashmir, people have to rush for minor surgeries, people compelled to rush to the neighbouring States of Punjab or Delhi for specialised treatment in absence of proper healthcare and doctors. Situation has been worse in hilly areas, where trauma centres have been built but due to non availability of doctor's turned these centers into referral points for GMCs in Jammu or Srinagar. Construction of buildings has been the prime focus of all the governments but nobody is concerned over recruitment of doctors, which are decreasing day by day due to the constant rate of retirements. Jammu's premier GMC has been grappling with a shortage of around 50 percent of doctors, while there is a shortage of 60 percent of medico professions in the city's Super Speciality Hospital. The 60 percent posts of doctors in rural Jammu and Kashmir are still lying vacant. It contradicted the claims of authorities that Jammu and Kashmir's health infrastructure has improved considerably. If one goes by the official documents, the healthcare system in rural areas continues to remain on sick bed as only 21 percent of Primary Health Centres (PHCs) are functioning on a 24x7 basis in rural pockets of the Union Territory. There are a total of 891 functional PHCs in Jammu and Kashmir, out of which only 190 PHCs remain operational round-the-clock, while the remaining PHCs work purely on official timing of 10 am to 4 pm and remain closed on Sundays. Over 700 PHCs don't function on a 24x7 basis, thereby forcing the poor and needy people of rural areas to shift their patients to cities and towns in case of emergency. The number of PHCs in rural areas has increased from 334 in 2005 to 891 in 2022 but no serious efforts have been made to ensure round-the-clock healthcare facilities in these institutions. As many as 179 PHCs are still functioning from rented buildings in J&K, while the remaining 648 PHCs have their own government buildings. Out of 179 PHCs in rented accommodations, the government does not pay rent for 64 buildings housing PHCs. Nearly 39 percent PHCs have a labour room for pregnant women, while just 5 percent PHCs have the facility of Operation Theatre in rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir. The government should seriously look into all these lacunas to fill the gap so that the people are provided with quality healthcare facilities.

When Manipur pitched in to protect India's territorial sovereignty

Lt Gen Slim-led 14th Indian Army handed to the Japanese their worst defeat of WWII on the Imphal plains.

LT GEN BALJIT SINGH (RETD)

THIS is a broad-brushed retrospective of the Indian Army, which - having earned name and fame fighting under the British flag in Europe, Africa, Mesopotamia and Persia - took up arms for the first time in defence of its own homeland under the most disadvantaged circumstances.

Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, the then Commander-in-Chief, India, said on record, "Britain could not have come through both wars (WWI & WWII) if they hadn't had the Indian Army."

And who could have known this better than Auchinleck? As a 20-year-old commissioned officer attached with 62nd Punjab, he led his company in defence of the far-flung Gyantse outpost (midway on the pony track of Naha La-Lhasa) and later fought with commendable distinction along with 1.5 million Indian soldiers in World War I. Two decades hence, he led in part 3.35 million Indian soldiers, termed 'the largest volunteer Army in the world', through World War II and till August 1947. Despite the gargantuan numbers of the Indian Army, when unanticipated winds of war engulfed the Indian homeland in December 1941, no more than one puny Infantry Brigade of Black Cats (17 Infantry Division), numbering about 3,000 combatants, was in the kitty for dispatch in the first rush to Rangoon with the intent to fight and defeat the highly motivated Japanese soldiers, emboldened by victory after victory over every foe thus far.

The Black Cats under Maj Gen John Smyth (a recipient of the Victoria Cross and the Military Cross) were reinforced in situ by three brigades from assorted Burmese paramilitary entities, but this proved too little and too late. It is to Smyth's credit that they did not yield to the Japanese onslaught for nearly one month but ultimately, they simply "had to retreat a thousand miles...the longest fighting withdrawal in the history of the British Army...but they had not been disgraced. They had put up a great fight...As they came into Imphal...they still carried their weapons...Lt Gen William Slim was proud of them...it was determined that one day they would go back."

"But meanwhile in the centre/Great deeds of arms were wrought", as Macaulay had



famously said in another context. The Japanese surprise attack on the US military facility at Pearl Harbour, Hawaii, had inflicted a crippling blow to the allies' overall war plans, but in turn the year-long swift retaliation mounted by the US armed forces was to provide a 14-month hiatus to India for knitting together the formidable 14th Army under Lt Gen Slim. On January 19, 1944, the Japanese Imperial Headquarters in Tokyo approved General Mutaguchi's plan for Operation 'U-Go', also known as 'Road to Delhi'. Gen Mutaguchi, a diehard adherent of Bushido (Japanese code of military honour), promptly issued a stirring order to his 15th Army.

"The Army has now reached the stage of invincibility and the day when the rising sun shall proclaim our victory in India is not far off...Aided by the Gods and inspired by the Emperor and the will to win...Officers and men must fight to death for their country." Concomitantly, 'Netaji' Subhas Chandra Bose was vested with the command of the Indian National Army (INA), an adjunct of 'U-Go' with the Tricolour as its flag, its salutation 'Jai Hind' and its slogan 'Chalo Dilli'.

In the interregnum prior to the 'U-Go' launch, the 14th Army Headquarters had gathered a sizeable outfit, comprising local Nagas,

Kerens, Kukis, Meiteis, Mizos and Lushais, tasked with infiltrating between Manipur and Chindwin rivers in the East and across the Irrawaddy river in the North-East for timely acquisition of movements and related operational buildup of the Japanese 15th Army.

Finally, the stage was set for Lt Gen Slim to lure Gen Mutaguchi on to the Imphal plains and fight a decisive battle to destroy the 15th Army as a prelude to the eviction of the Japanese from Burma. In the event, the 'U-Go' and 'Chalo Dilli' hordes were destroyed close to the last man, having trodden barely the first 10 km of the intended 2,428-km journey from Imphal to Delhi. The INA division had failed in its primary task of inciting deserts and revolt in the 14th Army.

Of the 85,000 combatants fielded by Gen Mutaguchi in this opening phase, the Japanese suffered 54,879 casualties (killed or wounded); another 4,000 were killed at Kohima, compared to 14th Army's 12,500 dead or missing.

And in this macabre slaughter in a circumference of 10 km around Imphal, the soil of Manipur was drenched in blood and the war-ravaged countryside cloaked in cinder, ash and charred debris, like Nagasaki was after the atomic bombing.

The scale of the ravages of war brings to mind these lines by PB Shelley:

Oh, cease! must hate and death return?

Cease! must men kill and die? Cease! drain not of its dregs the urn of bitter prophecy.

The world is weary of the past.

Oh, might it die or rest at last!

The British monarch elevated Lt Gen Slim to Field Marshal and also bestowed the knighthood on him, besides honouring the three Corps Commanders with the KBE

(Knight Commander of the most excellent order of the British Empire). The then Viceroy of India, Field Marshal Sir Archibald Wavell, performed the knighthood ceremony near Imphal, witnessed by a motley crowd of Kukis and Meiteis, the raging war notwithstanding. And in the cruellest paradox of life, the two wartime foes would shortly emerge as the best of friends after the armistice.

Lt Gen Slim-led 14th Indian Army had handed to the Japanese their worst defeat of World War II over the Imphal plains and, in the process, preserved India's territorial sovereignty.

But much more significantly, the Indian Army emerged as the first and true inheritor of the salutation 'Jai Hind' along with Manipur, which is in the throes of a violent conflict today.

Natural disasters a stark reminder of policy failure

The govt should enforce policies and regulations which limit the extent of forest land that can be legally converted for non-forest use.

KRISHNA RAJ

Torrential rain and floods have caused devastation in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Delhi. Natural disasters have become a frequent worldwide phenomenon in recent years. The governments and the people will think that "this too shall pass" and ignore it. But nature won't relent.

Author Charles Simmons said, "Sickness is the vengeance of nature for the violation of her laws." The big question is: will governments learn lessons from such disasters and go for course correction? One can attribute the recent floods and landslides to policy failure. Himalayan states have become the hub of tourism, with a sharp rise in personal income and a flourishing demand for recreational activities. The Central and state governments have vigorously promoted the tourism and hospitality sectors as part of macro-economic policies to boost the service sector so as to increase the state and national GDP. The tourism sector is one of the sunrise sectors in the post-Covid period. It is expected to attract



13 million international tourists and 2 billion domestic tourists, create 88 million jobs, earn about \$30 billion foreign exchange and contribute about \$145 billion to the GDP in 2023, as per the Invest India web portal of the Government of India. This sector demands huge infrastructure development, including roads and accommodation. Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand are situated in

ecologically sensitive zones of the Himalayas. Both attract tourists from across the country and abroad. They are facing severe shortage of land for the development of infrastructure and amenities. As a result, most of the common property resources, such as forest land, wasteland and grazing land, riverbanks, lakes, rivulets and government land, have been encroached upon and developed

into hotels and homestays to meet the rising demand for accommodation. Many farmers have discontinued agriculture, given land on lease and converted their agricultural farms into homestays. Changes in the land use policy have resulted in deforestation in hill areas.

From 2013 to 2022, 87 per cent of the tree cover loss in Himachal Pradesh occurred within natural forests. Further,

the state has promoted unregulated tourism through the Himachal Pradesh Home Stay Scheme, 2008; this has contributed to the growth of tourism and the plunder of common property resources. The state received 1.51 crore tourists in 2022, a nearly three-fold increase compared to the 2021 figure (56 lakh). Kullu district alone received almost one-fifth of the tourists who visited the state last year. The tourist footfall in HP in 2008 was just 97.5 lakh. The rapid increase in tourism activities is unsustainable, given that the state has several ecologically sensitive areas. The reliance on the tourism industry and the non-diversification of economic activities are worrisome. They affect the states which rely heavily on revenue from tourism. The flawed policy of the government to sustain the economy has led to ecological destruction. The cost of ecological loss is very high and far-reaching; it eclipses the benefits obtained from the tourism economy. In this context, the proposed amendments to the Forest Conservation Act need a critical review by lawmakers during the upcoming Monsoon

Session of Parliament. This legislation will have an important bearing on the environment. The Forest Conservation Amendment Bill, 2022, tries to exempt certain types of forest land from the purview of the Act. This will enable the Central Government to utilise forest land and non-classified forest land in states for non-forestry purpose after the grant of monetary compensation. The proposed amendment may pave the way for wanton appropriation of land in the guise of infrastructure development in 'national interest', such as the construction of highways, hydroelectricity projects, establishing check-posts, providing eco-tourism facilities, promoting safaris and allowing the establishment of zoos in forests. The Bill also seeks to exclude public land recorded as a 'forest' but not notified as a 'forest' before 1980. It also seeks exemption on land whose classification was changed from 'forest use' to 'non-forest use' before 1996. The amendment may hamper the government's objective of bringing 33 per cent of the geographical area of the country under forest cover, besides achieving the net-zero

emission target by 2070.

Forests provide a plethora of critical and diverse ecosystem services to both local communities and the country. Many services, such as providing food, fibre, timber, medicinal plants, supporting biodiversity, carbon sequestration, carbon storage, climate change mitigation, conservation of soil, stabilisation of the water flow, prevention of floods, land degradation and desertification, and reducing the chances of natural disasters (floods, droughts, landslides etc.) help in realising the economic capabilities of the states to achieve sustainable development. The flashfloods in north India remind us that forest resources of the country are important for national security and for realising sustainable development. Therefore, notification of forests for non-forest use is an instance of policy failure. The government needs to think about the action plan for sustainable management of forests and their ecosystem. The government should enact and enforce environmental policies and regulations which limit the extent of forest land that can legally be converted for non-forest use.

Janhvi Kapoor visits Arjun Kapoor's home with rumoured boyfriend Shikhar Pahariya, Varun Dhawan also spotted

Arjun Kapoor hosted a few near and dear ones at his residence, while girlfriend Malaika Arora is holidaying in Baku. Among them were actor-sister Janhvi Kapoor, her rumoured boyfriend Shikhar Pahariya, actor Varun Dhawan and his wife Natasha Dalal. Janhvi and Shikhar were spotted leaving in the same car. Janhvi also seemed to avoid the paparazzi. Both of them were twinning in white. A paparazzo account shared a picture of the rumoured couple post the get together on Instagram. It shows Janhvi in a short white dress and Shikhar in a white shirt, seated in the same car. Janhvi tried to move a bit

towards the window, which had a window shield in order to avoid the cameras. Varun Dhawan was in a printed blue shirt and was accompanied by wife-designer Natasha Dalal. She was in a white crop top and black pants. More about Arjun Kapoor On Sunday, Arjun had also shared a few pictures of him posing in his balcony. He had captioned them, "Just gotta be Grateful sometimes Sunday musings." Meanwhile, Arjun's girlfriend Malaika Arora is on a vacation with friends in Baku. She has been sharing several stunning pictures of herself from the Azerbaijan capital. Arjun was last seen in Aasmaan



Bhardwaj's Kuttye. He has two films in pipeline: The Lady Killer with Bhumi Pednekar and Meri Patni Ka Remake with Bhumi and Raku Preet Singh. The release dates of the films are awaited. Janhvi and Varun are promoting Bawaal

Janhvi and Varun are currently busy with the promotions of their film, Bawaal. Directed by Nitesh Tiwari, the film is slated to release in theatres on July 21. The trailer also showed a holocaust scene which left the audience wondering about the plot.

Ileana D'Cruz is pregnant but hasn't revealed the unborn child's father



Mom-to-be since she made her pregnancy announcement in April of this year, Ileana D'Cruz has been harassed on social media for the identity of the father of her unborn child. Ileana D'Cruz has responded to everyone's inquiries by sharing some pictures taken on a date on Sunday night with the father of her child. In the image, Ileana and her companion are seen adorable posing for pictures. Below the pictures was written, "Date Night." Ileana didn't reveal the father's name, though. Ileana said, "And on the days I forget to be kind to myself, this gorgeous man has been my rock," in reference to her partner's support. He has held me when he feels that I am about to crumble, and dabbed the tears away. He cracks ridiculous jokes to get me to laugh. Or just hugs me because he knows that's what I need right now. Furthermore, nothing appears to be as challenging anymore.

Ileana has also frequently uploaded pictures from her pregnancy album. Last week, Ileana posted a selfie on her Instagram stories in which she was unmade up and wearing a peach tank top. I'm trying to get some work done, but this 9th-month exhaustion is making it difficult.

Ileana was once said to be dating photographer Andrew Kneebone. Ileana was most recently seen in the Abhishek Bachchan and The Big Bull movie.

Producer Ajay Devgn and director Kookie Gulati collaborated on the film.

Arshad Warsi confirms Welcome 3: I am starring in it with Akshay Kumar, Sanjay Dutt, it's a huge film

Amidst a barrage of rumours and unverified reports, HT City finally brings to you a confirmation, from the horse's mouth: Yes, Welcome 3 is being made! Arshad Warsi, much loved in his comedy roles as he is for his dramatic ones, tells us the same as he lounges around in his bungalow, dressed in a comfortable tee and shorts. "The scale of Welcome 3: the cost, the climax, is unreal. It is an insanely larger than life theatrical film which I will be a part of. It has me, Akshay Kumar, Sanju (Sanjay Dutt), Paresh Rawal and lots of other people," he beams.



We reach this finding when we ask why we haven't seen much of Warsi much on the big screen in the last couple of years. On OTT, however he tasted success with Asur's second season

released recently. The 55-year-old says, "The whole scenario has changed in cinema. Now all the movies releasing in theatres are superhero films. They are huge, larger than life, it's bizarre.

I am seeing myself that way. To do a small bit in these big films, I don't fancy that. For me, job satisfaction is most important. These are films which will pay me tonnes of money. The ones I have got offered, I didn't fancy very much. The one I am doing is Welcome 3." While he "doubts" but doesn't "negate" Mumukshai 3 being made, he spills the beans on another franchise film he is doing: Jolly LLB 3, which brings him and Akshay together. "We start shooting in January. It is one of those films that tell you the truth of how things run in the world, good versus bad," he says. It almost

feels surreal that the first one starred him, second one had Kumar, and the third brings both of them together. It wasn't meant to be like this though. Why did he go missing from Jolly LLB 2? "I have no idea," Warsi replies, "I have a feeling the makers wanted to upscale the film. I remember I told Subhash (Kapoor, director) also 'You should do it with Akshay. If you want to show crowd in a courtroom, with me it will be 500, with Akshay you will get 5000' Somewhere, the production people realised 'let's get a bigger star'... People liked to see me, so I am back."

Parineeti-Raghav wedding reception is not in Chandigarh or Mumbai

Aam Aadmi Party's Raghav Chadha and Bollywood actress Parineeti Chopra want to tie the nuptial knot by the end of the year. When photos and a video of their dinner became popular on social media earlier this year, they swept the internet by storm. When they got engaged in May of this year, they formally confirmed their relationship, despite the fact that rumours about it had become the talk of the town. Now, rumours about their upcoming nuptials are spreading. As per earlier reports, it was stated that they will tie the knot in October in a traditional wedding ceremony followed by receptions in Mumbai and Chandigarh for their families, friends and acquaintances. Now, according to another report by the Free Press Journal, the couple is currently busy hunting for their wedding location. It seems like there have been slight changes in plans as the couple has decided to move their wedding reception to Gurugram.

According to earlier reports, they will exchange vows in a traditional wedding ceremony in October, followed by celebrations for their family, friends, and acquaintances in Mumbai and Chandigarh.

The pair is now reportedly actively looking for a venue for their wedding, according to a different story by the Free Press Journal. The decision by the couple to relocate their wedding reception to Gurugram suggests that there have been a few minor adjustments to the original schedule. According to the story, Pari and Raghav have already reserved an opulent hotel for the occasion.

According to reports, the couple's parents Sunil Chadha and Alka Chadha and Pawan Chopra and Renuka Chopra recently stopped by the hotel for a meal. According to the article, the manager organised everything on behalf of the soon-to-be-married couple and presented them with a lavish meal that had been prepared especially for them.

Ameesha Patel says Rakesh Roshan didn't recognise her when she returned from Boston after her studies

Ameesha Patel is all set to return to the silver screen with Gadar 2: The Katha Continues. She had made her big Bollywood debut opposite Hrithik Roshan in 2000 film Kaho Naa Pyaar Hai. It was directed by Rakesh Roshan. Ameesha has now revealed how she was spotted for the film within two days of being noticed by Rakesh Roshan at a wedding but not being recognized by him in one go.

Actor-turned-director Rakesh Roshan had directed Kaho Naa Pyaar Hai and launched Hrithik into films. The movie turned out to be a blockbuster with gross worldwide collection of ₹67 crore 23 years ago.

Ameesha on meeting Rakesh Roshan at a wedding

During her recent visit on The Kapil Sharma Show, Ameesha was asked about a rumour



that she was just 14-15 when she was spotted by Rakesh Roshan who was interested in casting her in a film. She said, "That is true but when he mentioned this it was just 14-15 year-old. He said that he

wanted to cast me with Hrithik. My family was not ready and they denied it as we belonged to a political-business background and I was going to Boston to study." "But then when I

returned from Boston, we were again at a wedding and I was leaving, when Rakesh uncle came. At first, he couldn't recognise me and he asked and my family said, "This is Ameesha, she just returned from Boston. In two days I had signed Kaho Naa Pyaar Hai's contract and in a week's time I was shooting," she said according to ETimes.

More about Ameesha Patel After making her acting debut with Kaho Naa Pyaar Hai, Ameesha delivered yet another blockbuster in Gadar: Ek Prem Katha in 2001.

She was seen as a Pakistani woman named Sakina, opposite Sunny Deol who played an Indian Sikh, Tara Singh. The two are now reprising their roles in Gadar 2 which also marks the debut of their onscreen son Charanjeet (Utkarsh Sharma) as an adult.

Ustad Zakir Hussain: I cannot thank social media enough



He is 73, but still considers himself "a student".

Ustad Zakir Hussain's passion for the craft is evident from his chock-a-block schedule. The tabla maestro returned from a Europe tour with his band Shakti two days ago and immediately took the stage up for a show in Mumbai, followed by a detailed discussion on his latest collaboration with the Symphony Orchestra of India for a triple concerto that will be held at the National Centre for Performing Arts (NCPA) soon, which will see him alongside flautist Rakesh Chaurasia and sitar player Niladri Kumar. Does he ever feel the need to slow down, given his age? "Being a student and having a drive to learn keeps me going. The opportunity to get inspired by all the young musicians out there helps me revamp myself. Age doesn't affect my energy and drive. I saw my father trying to hone his skills even when he was 76! It wasn't like he wouldn't speak about music and would just go on stage and perform. It was always about being at it and getting better at it. That's what urge and addiction is something that's inspired me too," says Hussain,

who kept his fans updated about his whereabouts through social media while touring Europe.

A strong believer in the power of social media, he shares, "I cannot thank social media enough. Without that, the kind of attention and visibility that musicians receive today won't be possible. Its role is enormous. Around 35-40 years ago, we would be touring and you wouldn't know about it. But today, you know exactly where I am, what I'm eating and where I'm performing." The veteran also credits the table for keeping him energetic. "The relationship between me and my instrument is special to both of us.

We help each other move forward together. I'm very happy when I'm with my tabla and I love it passionately. Whenever my father played the tabla, even when he was in his 70s, he would suddenly become 30 years younger in terms of energy.

Celina Jaitley recalls not getting paid for work, facing constant criticism: 'Either I was too white or not tall enough'

Celina Jaitley opened up about her journey in the fashion industry in Kolkata and how she wouldn't get paid even after working hard. Taking to Instagram on Monday, Celina penned a long note recalling how she faced 'constant criticism and rejection'. She said she had to 'hear many derogatory things about all the things that made me unique'. Celina Jaitley shared her video and a photo. Celina shared the note after clocking 22 years of becoming a runner-up at the Miss

Universe pageant. She also posted an old video as took part in the contest. Dressed in a saffron bikini, Celina also posed with Miss Curacao and Miss Dominican Republic in a photo. Sharing the post, she captioned it, "This year marks 22 years since I became a runner-up at the @missuniverse pageant held in San Juan, Puerto Rico in 2001 right after India's great triple wins at Ms. Universe, Ms World & Miss Asia Pacific the year before (@LaraDutta @priyankachopra @deespeak)." Celina penned a long note

talking about her struggles. She continued, "Amongst 103 contestants at only 5 ft 6 inches (I was one of the shortest contestants that year) yet I went on to become a runner up, a moment of great pride for me, upholding my country's and my predecessor's legacy. I entered the fashion industry at a very young age (15) after being scouted at an army party. The struggles that one went through in a new and upcoming fashion industry in a not-so-open-minded Kolkata was not easy, plus the pressure of studies and competitive

exams made my entire teenage a journey of hard work and toil. I also suffered from severe acne and very severe endometriosis and had to be hospitalized almost every month during my Menstruation due to severe dysmenorrhea and blood loss so it was an incredibly intense life for a child who had many dreams and aspirations." Celina recalls being rejected several times. "While others would enjoy weekends I would take up shoot and ramp show offers in Kolkata and work for meagre

amounts of monies. Many a times I wouldn't even end up getting paid for my hard work and unauthorised use of images due to lack of industry regulations. Then there was the constant criticism and rejection either I was too white, too thin, not tall enough or too tall etc. For many years I had to hear many derogatory things about all the things that made me unique and go on despite that. For a child in her teens it was truly overwhelming hence the journey to the crown was a very intense one." Celina also added.



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

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

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

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

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

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

The researchers used a modified version of a previous task that had been developed by Behrens, Browning, and their colleagues. The task was designed to assess volatility-based learning and decision-making processes. It involved an operant learning paradigm where participants had to learn which of two options led to the best feedback. The stimuli used were "slot machine" images with unique colors and characters.

During the task, participants had to make quick decisions by choosing one of the slot machine options presented on the screen. After their response, they



received feedback in the form of facial images and short written expressions (e.g., happy faces with statements like "Excellent!" or angry faces with statements like "Terrible!"). The researchers also manipulated volatility during the task to examine its impact on decision-making. In line with previous research, the researchers observed greater learning-rates under conditions of higher volatility. In other words, when the outcomes were unpredictable and changed a lot, people tended to adapt to feedback more quickly compared to when the outcomes were more stable. But while previous studies found that people with anxiety tended to have greater difficulty learning in volatile environments, the current study found only weak evidence for this association. Additionally, the study found that general distress, rather than anxiety or depression specifically, was related to learning rates in cer-

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

The researchers noted that differences in sample composition, cultural factors, and the level of distress among participants may have contributed to the inconsistent results.

While previous research had used electrical shocks or monetary rewards to provide feedback, the current study employed socio-affective cues (facial images and written expressions). "It's likely that faces are less powerful in influencing how

people learn than money or electrical shock, though people learn every day from very subtle cues in their environment," Van Dam said. "So, we still have quite a bit of work to do to understand how anxiety and depression might impact the way that people learn about good and bad outcomes."

Overall, the study highlights the challenges in understanding the relationship between abnormal learning processes and anxiety and depression. The findings suggest that the effects of affective disorders on learning behavior may be difficult to detect and highly dependent on specific circumstances (e.g., the type of reward/punishment).

"People with elevated levels of anxiety and depression do exhibit some difficulties in the way that they learn about rewards and punishments (especially when those rewards/punishments are changing over time)," Van Dam explained. "However, our main finding was that such tasks are really hard to implement as you make the tasks themselves more realistic. As a result, we need to be careful not to draw big sweeping conclusions without taking into consideration how our experiments might be extended to more natural settings."

The study, "Anxiety and depression related abnormalities in socio-affective learning", was authored by Dylan Hammond, Pengfei Xu, Hui Ai, and Nicholas T. Van Dam.

Vitamin D deficiency: Don't ignore warning signs like fatigue, body ache, hair loss, or weak immunity

Are you frequently falling ill or dealing with muscle weakness, body aches, and bone pain of late? Do you think your skin has turned pale, and feel tired and listless throughout the day? If you nodded yes to these, it's time you get yourself checked for vitamin D deficiency.

Crucial for maintaining the strength and health of your bones, vitamin D works with other essential minerals like calcium, magnesium, and phosphate, to keep your bones strong and healthy. It also uplifts your mood and promotes better sleep quality at night.

However, low vitamin D level in the body can cause various health problems in both children and adults. While children may suffer from rickets, which affects their bones, low vitamin D levels in adults exposes them to osteoporosis, which again weakens the bones. Some studies have also shown a link between vitamin D deficiency and other health issues like cancer, heart disease, diabetes, autoimmune diseases, and depression.

Signs and symptoms of vitamin D deficiency: The signs and symptoms of vitamin D deficiency can vary from person to person, and depend on the severity of the deficiency. However, some common signs to look out for include: Fatigue: Feeling tired most of the time is among the most common signs of vitamin D deficiency. If you often feel fatigued or lack energy, despite getting enough sleep, it could be a result of insufficient vitamin D levels. Inadequate vitamin D levels can hamper calcium regulation in the muscles, leading to muscle weakness and fatigue. Body aches: Vitamin D plays a crucial role in promoting calcium absorption, which is essential for maintaining healthy bones and muscles. Frequent bone pain or aches usually can indicate vitamin D deficiency. Insufficient vitamin D can negatively affect our musculoskeletal system. Hair loss: Vitamin D is crucial for healthy hair follicles. Low levels can damage hair growth cycle, even leading to hair loss or thinning. Sufficient vitamin D levels help in the regeneration of hair follicles, thus promoting healthy hair growth. Mood swings: Research shows that a lack of vitamin D levels can result in an increased risk of developing depression and experiencing symptoms of anxiety. Those with vitamin D deficiency could complain of constantly feeling irritated, have mood swings, or experience prolonged feelings of sadness or low mood.

Gym Injuries Can Interrupt Fitness Goals, Here Is How You Can Heal And Get Back In Shape

Exercising at the gym can cause serious injuries sometimes. When that happens, it is very tough to get back on track to reach our fitness goals. Injuries lead to a change in the workout approach and the speed of recovery depends on person to person. Some people might be able to recover quickly while others might take days or even months. Healing from an injury also depends on the kind of injury a person has experienced.

However, the main question that remains is that how can a person start going to the gym again deal with the fear of getting injured again? It is obvious that he or she needs to be extra careful, not put any pressure on the injured part of the body and also not over do it any point. But, what if the fear of getting injured takes over in an overwhelming way? The solution can be to take a step back and re-assess your entire workout routine. It is not a good idea to let fear take over, instead re-think the approach to fitness. Here is a three-step process that can help a person get back to shape, avoid injuries in the future and get over the fear.

Let A Physical Coach Assist The Workout Session



Going back to the gym or going back to training after an injury is difficult and slightly impossible to do it alone. The best idea is to seek help from either a medical professional or a gym trainer. Let them walk you through it, step by step. More importantly, this will also help you heal

and work around your problem spot safely. The worst thing you could do is do the wrong exercises and push yourself too hard on your first day or even first week back at the gym. Experts suggest few tips on how to get back into shape, firstly, work around your injury, start from the

most basic exercises, if you are focusing on strength training, start with light weight bar bells and start slow. Secondly, do not be reckless, listen to your trainer. There are special exercises that can help you focus on the correct muscles which can also help them heal. Only a PT can instruct you in such a way.

Get Back To Your Normal Routine With Time

Temporary injuries are fixable even if they are severe. The human body is equipped to handle injuries and also to heal fast. But, one point we should all note is that, the body also requires proper amount of rest, a good diet and sometime physiotherapeutic exercises recommended by an expert to heal completely. Any kind of interruptions in between might complicate the injury thus, it is best to follow the experts guidance. There are certain things we must not do:

Not getting proper rest But, if after following all the rules and after getting a green signal from a doctor, you can go back to your old routine. Starting off from scratch can be overwhelming but with time, you can go all out.

My personal bests are behind me - but I've found the secret to sustained exercise

In a lot of ways, I feel bad for people who decided they hated unnecessary physical exertion during PE lessons and have given it a studied miss ever since. But in one important way, I don't: if you avoid picking up a barbell or lacing up a pair of running shoes until hitting middle age, you could roll into your late 40s faster and stronger than you have ever been. Whereas - and don't feel too sorry for me, because I'm going to start showing off in a minute - at 44, the best way to describe my gym regime is probably "managed decline".

Let's get the showing-off out of the way first. In my 30s - I didn't actually start going to the gym myself until I was 29 - I could do a squat with double my own bodyweight on my back, and run 5km in a shade over 21 minutes. I could pull a small van and do a no-handed (AKA aerial) cartwheel. I could, and I'm not exaggerating, hoist a Vauxhall Astra hatchback off the ground 11 times in 90 seconds. I did just that in a competition. As Socrates once nearly wrote, it is a disgrace to grow old without seeing how jacked you can get. But nothing lasts for ever, and at some point you have to accept that the personal bests column in your workout spreadsheet is probably frozen for good. You get an injury, or you back off a bit, and the weight you once did as a warmup starts to feel quite heavy, then like an actual challenge, then like a forlorn hope. You don't ever regret lifting it in the first place - as Socrates once nearly wrote, it is a disgrace to grow old without seeing how jacked you can get - but your best Instagram posts now come with a light filter of sadness.

Is the growing concern for diabetes, obesity, heart diseases changing the food habits of Gen X?

Modern-day diseases like heart disease, cancer and diabetes have been becoming major health concerns in India and the WHO estimates that about 61% of all deaths in the country have been caused by such diseases where the incidence of diabetes has gone up from about 41 million in 2007 to around 72 million in 2017. Similarly, there has been an alarming rise in the number of heart disease cases where the total number of people who lost their lives due to heart attacks jumped from 18,000 in 2015 to more than 28,000 in 2021 but things can change for the better very soon, led by those born between 1965 and 1980 i.e. Gen X - the generation that queued up to eat fast food and is also the one that is ready to dump the junk. Almost half of the urban middle class surveys recently in the country have changed their diet to prevent the onset of lifestyle diseases. A study conducted by the Indian Dietetic Association (IDA), Mumbai Chapter and Country Delight has found that get or digestive health is the main reason for modern-day or lifestyle diseases since dietary preferences have a huge bearing on the overall health of a person and change in the diet can lead to the prevalence of many lifestyle diseases.

In an interview with HT Lifestyle, Safala Mahadik RD, CDE, Senior Dietitian at KEM Hospital in Mumbai, revealed, "While the tra-



ditional Indian food habits have been rich in fiber and important nutrients, there has been a gradual shift towards processed foods and fast foods which caused the diets of many Indians to acquire the lethal combination of high-fat and low-fiber intake. This led to a significant imbalance in the gut microbiota, thus causing inflammation and various other health issues." Increasing awareness

Safala Mahadik shared, "Thankfully there is a growing awareness among people about the linkage between Dietary preferences and disease. According to the survey, carried out by

Country Delight in association with IDA Mumbai, about 80% of people believe that digestive issues lead to long-term lifestyle diseases. The survey has also highlighted the fact that 7 out of every 10 people suffer from some digestive medical condition and acidity or heartburn. Among those who suffer from these issues, about 59% underwent such conditions every week and 12% experienced it every day."

She opined, "The marketing campaigns of certain large corporations and food compa-

nies may be one reason why there has been a shift in the food habits of people - from fiber-rich to fat-rich. Interestingly, more than 50% of people are aware that junk food or chemically processed food leads to gut health problems, yet a staggering 63% of people choose some form of junk or processed or packaged food every week. Among these, about 19% consume it every day, according to the survey."

Dietary habits

Cautioning that poor dietary patterns can lead to several health issues including obesity and other diseases, Safala Mahadik said, "Dietary habits that include sugary drinks and high-fat foods can cause obesity which is a significant risk factor for diabetes, heart disease, etc. The poor effect of these kinds of food choices is evident from the fact that the survey respondents who said they consume junk or processed or packaged food every week, about 68% suffer from gastric issues. This is significantly more than those who consume such food items less than once a week." She suggested, "To prevent present-day lifestyle diseases, it is paramount to curb the intake of processed foods, and chemical-laden food items. It is also important to curtail the intake of cholesterol and saturated fat that can play havoc with the health of the people. The bright side of the prevailing health quagmire in the country is that 6 out of every 10 people

know that their diet played an important role in preventing lifestyle diseases and therefore has brought about alterations in their last few years. About 67% of the survey respondents also said that they look for chemically free natural food items for their daily diet. People in the age group of 35-44 years and quite a few women showed a higher preference for food items with lower preservatives/ high nutritional value/ longer shelf life/farm fresh. The top purchase drivers that are emerging in the country include chemical-free foods followed by ingredients and nutritive value, something that bodes well for the health of the citizens of the nation."

According to her, a further push to make people aware of the choices of their food from their health can be fruitful from the point of view of bringing down the health care costs in the country since such lifestyle diseases cause a severe drain on the financial resources and health infrastructure. Safala Mahadik concluded, "Efforts should also be made to check the marketing campaigns of brands that use more chemicals and push junk food. There can also be policy-level support for building an environment where food items and brands that promote natural food items can get more attention from consumers. Such a move will make India even more healthy and will help the nation reap the demographic dividend by being the youngest country in the world."

9th NCORD meeting: DC B'la calls for Zero Tolerance against Perpetrators of Drug Abuse

Adopt coordinated approach & ensure synergized efforts to make B'la free from Drug menace; DC to Officers

JJ NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA, JULY 17: The 9th meeting of the District Level Committee of Narcotics Coordination (NCORD) was today held at Dak Bungalow Baramulla here under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar.

The meeting took appraisal of the action taken by the concerned departments with regard to control measures to overcome drug menace in the district.

It also discussed the incidence of drug addiction, areas of concern, age group of addicts, hot spots of drug abuse



and status of drug rehabilitation centre in Baramulla district. During the meeting, Dr Sehrish

called for zero tolerance against perpetrators of drug abuse in the district and issued directions to

the concerned officers to ensure blanket ban on the sale of tobacco within 200 meter radius of all educational institutions across the district.

The DC further said that collective efforts are needed to curb the drug menace and all stakeholders shall have to work in tandem to enhance the rehabilitation of persons involved in drug abuse.

Dr Sehrish also exhorted upon the Youth Services and Sports Department to ensure the involvement and engagement of youth clubs in various activities meant to help in eradication of the drug menace.

Dr Sehrish emphasised on conducting awareness camps in

schools and colleges on mass scale to sensitize the youth about hazards and ill effects of consuming drugs.

Meanwhile, DC was informed that 8 medical shops have been sealed in the district violating the guidelines of the government besides 170 Kanal poppy cultivation have been destroyed and 58 FIRs lodged against the culprits during the last drug De-addiction drives. Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla/Sopore, Principal Government Medical College Baramulla, Programme Officer ICDS, SDM's and other functionaries of concerned departments were present in the meeting.

13th Round of Kisan Sampark Abhiyan under HADP held at Ramban

JJ NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, JULY 17: The first day of thirteen weeks' round of ongoing Kisan Sampark Abhiyan (Farmers Orientation Programme) under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav with the theme Atmanirbhar Bharat was held today in 02 blocks of district Ramban.

People turned up in large numbers and were keen to learn about the schemes of HADP and other Centrally Sponsored Schemes as well. The participating farmers were sensitized about various schemes aimed at holistic development and promotion of Agriculture and allied sectors so that the farmers can get maximum profit and create employment opportunities from the Agriculture sector.

The use of audio-visual aids to explain the schemes engaged and engrossed the farmers. Informative booklets in 03 (three) languages regarding the scheme of HADP were distributed among the participants. A Baseline survey/Skill gap study of the farmers was also being carried out simultaneously during the Kisan Sampark Abhiyan.

The farmers were also aware about Daksh Kisan and Kisan Sathi Portal. Farmers were also informed about the mode of application under these schemes using the KISAN SATHI, the IT Dashboard of the schemes developed by APD. A simple scan of the QR codes on the pamphlets takes the farmer to the KISAN SATHI Portal where he can register easily and there is no need for visiting any office for applying under any of the schemes.

The farmers were also apprised of DAKSH KISAN - a Learning Management System (LMS) for skill development of the farmers.

A first of its kind in the country, DAKSH KISAN, has been developed by Agriculture Production Department, where 118 skilling courses as per the agro-climatic zones of the J&K UT are available for free to the farmers.

In addition to this, three hour discussions and Question Answer sessions were held at every panchayat following each video screening session to address farmers' concerns. Around 96 farmers were registered during the first day of the thirteen round of Kisan Sampark Abhiyan.

DC reviews implementation of PM-FBY scheme in Udhampur

JJ NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, JULY 17: To review the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme) in the district, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Sachin Kumar Vaisya today convened a meeting of officers and Bankers here in the Mini Conference Hall DC Office Complex.

During the meeting, the Bankers were directed to put in extra efforts to extend Crop Insurance cover to maximum farmers. "Ensure that the majority of farmers are covered by explaining to them about the benefits of the insurance scheme," he directed the stakeholder departments.

The DC impressed upon the officers and bankers to follow all operational guidelines and procedures so that maximum farmers get benefitted from this flagship scheme.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Mudassar Yaqoob Zargar, Chief Agriculture Officer, Sanjay Anand, LDM and other officers and bankers.

BDC Chairman Ukhral kick starts construction work of link road

JJ NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, JULY 17: Block Development Council Chairman, Ukhral Karleep Singh Bali today kick started the construction work of a link road under NABARD from Bus Stand Ukhral to Raahoon top.

Tehsildar Ukhral, Nasser Javid, Assistant Executive Engineer, Mohd Anif, Sarpanch Panchayat, Panchal B Abdul Rashid Katoch, JE Yassar Ahmed Wani and other PRI members besides Representatives of Boopar Mandal as well as prominent citizens of adjoining area were present on the occasion. While speaking on the occasion, BDC Chairman congratulates the general public of the area and added that it was a long pending demand of the local residents of the area which has been fulfilled now. PRI members as well as general public of the area have expressed their gratitude to the UT Administration in general and the District Administration Ramban in particular for resolving their long pending demand for road connectivity.

Pertinent to mention here that the road will facilitate connectivity to several villages including Bass, Hira Nagar Uchra, Upper Ochra, Lower and Upper Barthyal, Ogantrag, Pos Nogh, Lohliyal, Tulihal, Masjid Pora, Lone Pora, Beminiyal, Bernihal etc.

BDC Chairperson Kishtwar inaugurates Open Air Gym at Block Dachhan

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, JULY 17: District Development Council Chairperson Kishtwar, Pooja Thakur today inaugurated an Open Air Gym near Government Higher Secondary School Sounder Dachhan.

CO 17 RR Col Ananya Chiplankar, PRLS, Staff of DYSSO, Education besides a large number of locals of the area attended the inaugural ceremony.

The event, organized by Incharge Zonal Physical Education Officer Marwah, on the direction of District Development Commissioner, Dr. Devansh Yadav and the guidance of District Youth Services and Sports Officer Khairati Lal Sharma, marked an important milestone in promoting fitness and well-being among the local community members.

Equipped with modern fitness apparatus for strength training, cardio workouts, and comprehensive fitness enhancement, the facility provides an excellent opportunity for individuals to engage in various exercises and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Awareness Programme on "Development of Post Cocoon Technology" held at Poonch Campus

JJ NEWS SERVICE

POONCH, JULY 17: University of Jammu, Poonch Campus organized an awareness programme on Development of Post Cocoon Technology, here today.

The Awareness Programme was organized in collaboration with Silk Technology Service Centre, CSRTI Central Silk Board, and Ministry of Textiles Government of India.

Dr N.S Gahlot, Scientist-D (R&S)/Zonal Officer Silk Technology Service Centre, CSRTI Central Silk Board, Ministry of Textiles Government of India, who is on a three day visit to border district Poonch, was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Present on the occasion were

Bharat Bhashan Senior Technical Assistant CSRTI, Dr Rubia Bukhari Campus Officer Poonch Campus, Dr Suraksha Chanotra, Dr Mazafar Ahmad Bhat, Kalpana Sudana, Sumya Kapoor, Students and not teaching staff members; Mohd Arshad, Mohd Sagheer and Sandeep Kumar from the Department of Sericulture, Poonch Campus.

In his address, the Director Poonch Campus Prof. Rakesh Vaid thanked Dr N.S Gahlot, Scientist-D (R&S)/Zonal Officer Silk Technology Service Centre, CSRTI Central Silk Board, Ministry of Textiles Govt of India, Jammu for organizing the Awareness Programme in Poonch Campus University to benefit the stakeholders.

He said that the new technology promises to reduce labour, improve silk quality, conserve water and cut down pollution. "With this, they will make sarees, besides using silk in medicine, cosmetics and nutraceutical purposes."

He further hoped that in future also, CSRTI will organize such programmes at Poonch Campus which will not only help the students but also the registered farmers of the district.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr N.S Gahlot explained and emphasized the significance of producing high-quality cocoons for the production of raw silk that can be graded. He emphasized the need for extra care for cocoons during spinning and after harvesting and

provided an explanation of the necessary drying processes for improving dry silk and cocoons on both a quantitative and qualitative level.

He presented a power slide presentation that included various defective cocoon varieties, cocoon sorting before marketing, and various reeling devices.

He further explained how to minimize the percentage of defective cocoons by using proper montages materials appropriate for this area. Bharat Bhashan (STA), Jammu presented a detailed lecture on importance of Post Cocoon Technology and how to improve the quality of raw silk for the participants. Dr Rubia Bukhari in her address exhorted the participants to use innovative

techniques in the field as explained by the Scientist. She thanked Dr N.S Gahlot for his valuable guidance given during the programme. She thanked CSRTI especially Dr N.S Gahlot for organizing this awareness programme on a very important topic.

The programme was followed by an interactive session. The participants put up various queries to the Dr N.S Gahlot. Their doubts were cleared to their entire satisfaction.

The Students of the Department of Sericulture, Poonch Campus expressed that the programme has helped them in enhancing their knowledge level.

Dr. Rubia Bukhari presented the formal vote of thanks.

Labour Deptt Kulgam organises Awareness programme for Building & other Construction Workers

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KULGAM, JULY 17: Labour Department Kulgam today organized an awareness programme for building and other construction workers at community facilitation centre (CFC) DH Pora Kulgam.

The event aimed to educate participants about the registration/ renewal process and welfare schemes provided by the Jammu and Kashmir Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (JKBOCWWB).

At the venue, Assistant Labour Commissioner Kulgam, Dr. Adnan Tariq addressed the participants, provided detailed information about the registration process and explained the welfare schemes currently in vogue by the JKBOCWWB for welfare of the construction workers.

On the occasion, Dr.Nida Yousuf, Assistant Labour Commissioner JKBOCWWB enlightened the participants about the welfare schemes of JKBOCWWB both presently active and those planned to be implemented in the next financial year.

During her speech, she apprised the participants about several upcoming enhancements to the welfare schemes, including an increase in the rate of scholarships for various classes.

She also apprised them about a special scholarship of Rs. 50,000 for the wards of registered BOC workers who secure 90% and above marks in 10th and 12th class.

Furthermore, she discussed the re-induction of marriage assistance, emphasizing the importance of registration for construction workers to avail themselves of the benefits offered by the welfare schemes for the betterment of their livelihoods.

Addressing the concerns of the participants, she assured them that the pending cases of various assistance requests in the board would be cleared as soon as possible. The programme was also attended by the staff members of the Labour Department.

DC Pulwama reviews arrangements for ensuing Muharram-ul-Haram

JJ NEWS SERVICE

PULWAMA, JULY 17: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom today chaired a meeting of District Officers and Shia religious/Community leaders at Circuit house Pulwama, to review arrangements to be put in place for ensuing Muharram-ul-Haram starting from 20th July.

On the occasion, the Chief Medical Officer and officers of the Health Department were asked to keep first aid facilities, medical teams and Ambulances available in the areas and also accompany the processions to ensure immediate first aid/ medical treatment.

The DC directed Block Development Officers and Executive Officers (EOs) of MCs to repair all dysfunctional Street lights including High Mass lights around Imambaras and make them functional well before the important days of Muharram.

He stressed on ensuring cleanliness of lanes and drains inside the compounds of Imambaras, Shrines and Procession routes.

He also asked them to enhance manpower for ensuring proper cleanliness during the Muharram days.

Similarly, the SFC departments were directed to dump the required quantity of firewood at already identified locations as per past practice.

In order to ensure uninterrupted



electricity and water supplies particularly in Shia populated areas, the DC passed on spot directions to concerned Officers for making fool-proof arrangements. He also asked Executive Engineer PHE to keep provision of water tanker supply wherever required. SE, PDD Pulwama was instructed to ensure uninterrupted Power supply during the Muharram period and avoid load shedding, especially during evening and night time.

All ADCs and Tehsildars were directed to remain in contact with all religious heads of Imambaras of the district and hold regular meetings with them for any sort of support and

ensure that the Muharram processions are taken out in a peaceful environment. He also stressed upon officers to visit the procession routes to take stock of public facilities available during Muharram.

Meeting was attended by SP Awantipora, Addl. SP Pulwama, ADC, Superintendent Engineers and Executive Engineers PDD/Jal Shakti, Chief Medical Officer Pulwama, ACD/ACP Pulwama and other sectoral officers of the district.

Shia Religious leaders and public representatives from different areas of Pulwama also attended the meeting and put forth their demands before the Deputy Commissioner.

Export Awareness cum e-Commerce Onboarding Workshop held at Shopian

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SHOPIAN, JULY 17: Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) in association with Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) today organized an export awareness cum e-Commerce onboarding workshop for potential exporters at Mini-Secretariat Shopian.

The Assistant Commissioner (AC) Shopian, Shahbaz Ahmed Bodha presided over the workshop and expressed his salutations to the business community members from Shopian District.

Addressing the gathering, the Assistant Commissioner emphasized on proper branding of the products to make the branded products export ready. He further highlighted the major products from Shopian which have potential for exports and spotlighted the importance of fine tuning and finishing of products.



The workshop is first in line of the planned events to be held across the UT to promote exports from all districts of J&K. It included detailed sessions on benefits of exports, awareness regarding India Business Portal and India Trade portal, credit linkages for exports and credit risk insurance facilities and potential of products of the region in international market.

The emphasis of the workshop was to boost and support exports

from District Shopian with a focus on developing the district as an export hub under the District as Export Hub/ODOOP initiatives. The beneficiaries were briefed regarding the potential of their products for exports, countries to be targeted and procedures of exports.

JKTPO has brought all export agencies/ stakeholders to the grassroots level through these drives.

Special focus was given on

ODOOP of district Shopian.

The detailed sessions were conducted by the experts on the benefits of exports, the process of getting an Import/Export code, endorsing local products to an international market, credit linkages for exports and credit risk insurance facilities.

Dr. General, DGFT, A.K.

Bhushan apprised the participants of the role of DGFT in international trade.

He reflected upon the kind of documentation and procedures necessary for entering the international business/IEC registration and other related issues.

RDD conducts Plastic free Baltal rally at Base camp Baltal

JJ NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL, JULY 17: In order to eliminate the use of plastic products and ensure plastic free Shri Amarnathji yatra, Rural Development Department (RDD) in collaboration with other sanitation agencies today conducted awareness rally at Base Camp Baltal.

The rally was headed by the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Ganderbal, Mushtaq Ahmad Simani along with Camp Director Baltal in which all stakeholders participated.

During the rally, all stakeholders including yatries and shopkeepers were urged to use jute bags and other eco-friendly products including bio-degradable products during the Yatra.



DC Budgam chairs 13th NCORD meeting; reviews measures against drug menace

JJ NEWS SERVICE

BUDGAM, JULY 17: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo on Monday conducted the 13th meeting of District Level Committee of Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) at Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex, here to take review of the action taken by the concerned departments with regard to decisions made in previous meetings.

The future course of action to uproot the drug menace and destruction of Narco crops in Budgam District was also formulated during the meeting.

At the outset, the DC took detailed feedback from every concerned Department regarding the measures undertaken for combating illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and its consumption in the district to save youth from the dangerous effects of the drugs.

The DC said that drug abuse is a serious problem that not only affects individuals, but also families and communities. He stated that it is essential to tackle the issue from multiple perspectives,



including deterrence, treatment and enforcement. He reiterated that the District Administration is committed to create a drug-free environment in the district and will continue to take all necessary steps to achieve this goal.

On the occasion, the DC directed Assistant Drug Controller Budgam to install CCTV camera in the drug stores and achieve 100% saturation. He also directed Excise Officer to ensure coordination with Revenue and police

departments at sub-division level for imposing greater deterrence to combat dangerous trade of drug-trafficking, destruction of poppy and cannabis cultivation in the district. He said that efforts with Cooperation, Coordination and Collaboration are vital to contain the drug peddling and break the supply chain, besides taking stringent action against the culprits involved in the hazardous trade of drugs, and cultivation in narco crops.

He further directed Excise departments to collaborate with progressive farmers to boost silk production in the area. Additionally, he directed the Handicraft and Handloom departments to disburse loans to 300 artisans and set the target of sponsoring 200 loan cases by the next month.

DC Doda reviews performance of key sector departments

JJ NEWS SERVICE

DC discusses action plan for maiden Special Passport Drive in Poonch

POONCH, JULY 17: In a move to improve passport appointment availability, the District Administration Poonch, in collaboration with Regional Passport Office Jammu is going to organise first ever Special Passport Drive in Poonch in New Auditorium Degree College Poonch on July 22 (Saturday) and July 23 (Sunday).

In this connection, Deputy Commissioner Poonch Yasin M. Choudhary chaired a meeting in his office chamber to discuss the action plan.

During the meeting, the DC said that there will be 180-slots for Saturday and 90-slots for Sunday. He said the applicants can book or reschedule an appointment on www.passportindia.gov.in for the scheduled dates for Poonch. He further said that prior appointments are mandatory, and no walk-in requests will be entertained.

The drive comes as a relief to many passport applicants who have been facing long waiting times for appointment availability.

The DC directed concerned officers to make proper Seating Arrangements, PA System, parking and other facilities for the convenience of the passport applicants and visiting team.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Tahir Mustafa Malik, ACR Zabeer Ahmed Kaifi, Deputy Director Employment Mohd Rafiq, ARTO, Basharat Mehmood and other concerned officers and officials.

Asks to improve visibility, activities to generate maximum income opportunities for people

JJ NEWS SERVICE

DODA, JULY 17: Deputy Commissioner Doda, Vishesh Mahajan, today chaired a meeting of the departments dealing in key sectors to discuss the road map for economic growth and creation of income opportunities.

The discussions focused on strategies to promote handloom, handicraft, sell employment, silk production, supporting local artisans, ensuring food safety and enforcement of fair trade practices.

The meeting reviewed the performance of around 10 departments, including Sericulture, Handloom, Handicrafts, Food Safety & Drugs, Legal Metrology, District Urban Development Agency, SC/ST/OBC Corporation, Women Development Corporation, JKED, Doda, and NRLM. The meeting discussed their achievements, functions, and targets.

The DC emphasised the need to

engage the desirous farmers in cocoon production.

He instructed the concerned departments to collaborate with progressive farmers to boost silk production in the area.

Additionally, he directed the Handicraft and Handloom departments to disburse loans to 300 artisans and set the target of sponsoring 200 loan cases by the next month.

The DC further urged the department to promote local Pattu and blanket production with attractive designs to appeal to the customers. He also asked for encouraging the skilled tailors to promote traditional clothing.

The DC asked the Handicraft and Handloom department to identify suitable platforms to display local items and attract customers. It was revealed during the meeting that there are 20 craft centers in the district, out of which 12 are currently operational.

The sericulture department

informed the DC about the establishment of a cooperative unit. The DC also suggested creating small videos or animation films demonstrating the silk production process. Additionally, he directed the departments to set the target of enhancing farmers' income and to establish a high quality plant nursery in Doda. He stressed the importance of finding technocrats, entrepreneurs, and progressive farmers to coordinate with the NRLM (National Rural Livelihood Mission) and provide marketing linkages to rearing farmers.

Later, the DC reviewed the Food Safety department's functioning and instructed them to provide licenses to all street vendors (rehari wala) and register them with the food safety department. He directed the department to conduct checking of food served in the district, particularly in Baderwah, as the district administration is planning to organize a mega festival in August.

Dr. Tariq Sultan Programme Coordinator KVK Bandipora in his inaugural address underlined various technological innovations made by SKUAST-Kashmir in respect of Cereal, horticulture, oilseeds, dairying, sericulture and fisheries etc. and urged participants to take full advantage of the available technologies for harnessing quality production and ensuring better dividends.

During the event, Dr. Tahir Saleem Scientist (Vegetable Science) highlighted through a power point presentation the various technological advancements made so far by SKUAST-Kashmir in Agriculture and Allied sectors and desired participants to adopt scientific recommendations for harnessing production for quality and better returns.

Meanwhile, to showcase the technologies, products, newly released varieties and other research products, an exhibition of technologies was also done and threedare discussion of participants with scientists added beauty to the event.

Dr. Saurov Gupta, Scientist (Entomology) briefed about the importance of innovative farming as it offers a solution to various problems, such as food security, farmers' distress, and health problems arising due to pesticide and fertilizer residue in food and water, global warming, climate change and natural calamities.

He also discussed different ways to control various insect pests and diseases of Chickpea through various innovative farming techniques.

Dr. Vijay Kumar Sharma, Scientist (Animal Sciences) elaborated upon the different initiatives undertaken by the GOI to improve

the livestock farming and also different schemes for the welfare of the livestock farmers.

Dr. Shalini, Programme Assistant, KVK Samba emphasized the importance of soil in agricultural productivity. She stressed upon that farmers should use organic farming techniques to promote soil health.

Dr. Amit Mahajan discussed in detail about the various weed management practices in the kharif crops. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Saurov Gupta. Others who participated in the programme were Bharat Bhusan, Tajinder Singh and Pawan Singh.

Technology Day celebrated at KVK Samba

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA, JULY 17: Samba Krishi Vigyan Kendra of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology - Jammu today organized "Technology day cum Awareness programme" under the dynamic leadership of Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu. As many as 80 farmers/farm women enthusiastically participated in the programme. On this occasion, a display of new and innovative technologies was also organized, in which different types of specimens, exhibits and agricultural tools and implements were

demonstrated for the farmers.

The programme began with a welcome address by Dr. Sanjay Khajuria, Chief Scientist & Head, KVK Samba. He welcomed the farmers and highlighted the importance of new and innovative technologies in agriculture particularly in Samba district for growing the income of the farmers. He emphasized upon the need to include new and innovative technologies in agriculture to improve the profitability in the agriculture sector. He informed them about the organizing kisan goshtis, awareness camps to sensitize farmers about the novel technologies in the agriculture sector. Dr.

Dr. Abhay Kumar Sinha, Senior Scientist (Agricultural Engineering) emphasized that farm mechanization has proved a game changer in the field of agriculture with the introduction of farm machinery like tractors, tiller, farm machinery banks, custom hiring centers, innovative farm tools to the farmers has reduced farm drudgery to a greater extent. Speaking on the occasion, Dr.

Neeraj Sharma, Senior Scientist (Horticulture) discussed in detail the value addition of the fruits and vegetables in the Samba district and various post harvest measures to improve the income of the farmers.

Dr. Abhay Kumar Sinha, Senior Scientist (Agricultural Engineering) emphasized that farm mechanization has proved a game changer in the field of agriculture with the introduction of farm machinery like tractors, tiller, farm machinery banks, custom hiring centers, innovative farm tools to the farmers has reduced farm drudgery to a greater extent. Speaking on the occasion, Dr.

Saurav Gupta, Scientist (Entomology) briefed about the importance of innovative farming as it offers a solution to various problems, such as food security, farmers' distress, and health problems arising due to pesticide and fertilizer residue in food and water, global warming, climate change and natural calamities.

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DC Kupwara chairs Revenue Officers meeting; reviews their performance

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA, JULY 17: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan Monday convened a meeting of Revenue Officers at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex here to review their performance.

At the outset, ACR Kupwara, Irfan Bahadur apprised the chair through a detailed PowerPoint presentation regarding functioning of the revenue department and the performance of the officers.

The DC reviewed all agenda points including Jamabandies, Quality check, Back-log Mutations, Status of Geo-referencing, SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas), Status of Agricultural Census, Issuance of Pass books (generations and distributions), Fencing of retrieved land, Status of Mutations, Status of Giridawars, Status of revenue court cases, RCCM Portal and other related issues. On the occasion, DC also sought feedback from the concerned officers. The DC while stressing for better service delivery, directed the officers and field functionaries for improving their performance and ensuring strictness in the timeline. While reviewing the status of Jamabandies and quality check, DC gave a deadline of 10 days to officers to complete the process and asked NTS, Tehsildars, and SDMs to take the ownership of quality check of Jamabandies.

The DC directed ACR Kupwara to get the updates of the progress on a daily basis and seek the certificates about the correctness of the Jamabandis from concerned Tehsildars. While reviewing the fencing of the retrieved State land, DC directed officers to prioritize the fencing of the retrieved state land.

On the occasion ADC Kupwara, Gh.Naib Bhat asked the concerned officers to work out on a fund requirement plan for fencing of retrieved state land and send proposal to the DC office.

The DC directed officers to focus on Revenue Court Cases and get them uploaded on RCCMS (Revenue court Cases Monitoring System) Portal.

She also directed officers to stick to the deadline of 10 days and finish the pending revenue works.

The DC asked officers to submit the court case reports within the timeline and follow-up them.

She further directed officers and field functionaries to be responsive to the people, remain available for them, interact with them and prioritize the dispute resolution.

She also emphasized Revenue Officers to co-operate with BDOs in identification of suitable land for important projects.

The meeting was attended by ADC Kupwara, ACR Kupwara, SDM Lolab, SDM Karnah, DIO Kupwara, Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars and other concerned officers.

KVK Bandipora celebrates 95th ICAR Foundation cum Technology Day

JJ NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, JULY 17: The 95th ICAR Foundation cum Technology Day was on Monday celebrated at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Patashay Bandipora.

Progressive farmers, farm-women and budding entrepreneurs besides, officials from different development departments participated.

At the outset, Dr. Hilal Ahmad Malik Scientist (Agri Extension) highlighted the significance of the day and role of Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR), GOI in transforming production led agriculture to market-driven agriculture through the commendable research by the apex institution of the Country in the field of Agriculture and Allied sectors.

Dr. Tariq Sultan Programme Coordinator KVK Bandipora in his inaugural address underlined various technological innovations made by SKUAST-Kashmir in respect of Cereal, horticulture, oilseeds, dairying, sericulture and fisheries etc. and urged participants to take full advantage of the available technologies for harnessing quality production and ensuring better dividends.

During the event, Dr. Tahir Saleem Scientist (Vegetable Science) highlighted through a power point presentation the various technological advancements made so far by SKUAST-Kashmir in Agriculture and Allied sectors and desired participants to adopt scientific recommendations for harnessing production for quality and better returns.

Meanwhile, to showcase the technologies, products, newly released varieties and other research products, an exhibition of technologies was also done and threedare discussion of participants with scientists added beauty to the event.

SDM Sumbal visits Shadipora, Shilvat, Nowgam, Inderkoot areas

Interacts with locals; takes stock of Muharram arrangements

JJ NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, JULY 17: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Sumbal, Amir Choudhary on Monday visited Shahtulpura, Shadipora, Shilvat, Nowgam and Inderkoot areas of Sumbal Sub-Division to take stock of necessary arrangements put in place for smooth celebration of the holy month of Muharram-ul-Haram.

The SDM visited several Imam-Baras and mosques to review the arrangements besides interacting with local population.

He inspected Imambaras at Shahtulpura, Shadipora, Shahtulpura, Sarai Dangeppora, Shilvat, Wuddar Mohallah and Inderkoot and took firsthand appraisal of various arrangements put in place and assessed the necessities to be arranged. SDM also interacted with the locals at all the locations who thanked the administration for making necessary arrangements for smooth celebration of the month and also apprised the officer about various problems being faced by them.

The people demanded uninterrupted water and power supply besides macadamization and necessary repairs of various roads and installation of street lamps at public places to ensure smooth passing of Muharram processions besides availability of healthcare services. Choudhary gave patient hearing to all the demands and assured that all the demands raised by the people will be looked into.

DFCO organises day-long stakeholders workshop for price regulation at Jammu

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JULY 17: Price Monitoring and Resource Unit, (PMRU) of Drugs & Food Control Organisation (DFCO), J&K today organised stakeholders workshop for price regulation at Conference Hall, Canal Road here.

The objective of the program was to create general awareness about fixation of ceiling Prices under NLEM, 2022-ensuring affordability among the stakeholder's, drug price control mechanism and monitoring, need and importance of establishment of PMRU across the Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

Speaking during the workshop,

Secretary Health, Bhupinder Kumar, who was chief guest on the occasion, emphasized that price regulation has a direct bearing upon making patient care affordable. He said that 34-42% of expenses incurred on healthcare is contributed to purchase of medicines.

The Secretary solicited close coordination between all stakeholders to share their observations through PMRU so that National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority can come forward to exercise check over price rise. He highlighted the importance of awareness to disseminate the information related to this initiative.

The Secretary further stressed that awareness camps should be

organized on regular basis across the union territory so that common masses shall avail benefits through it. He added that mobile applications designed and developed by NPPA like "Pharma Sahi Dam?" and "Pharma Jan Samadhan?" and Integrated Public Database Management System (IPDMS) should be popularized through social media and other means.

Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner, Food & Drug Administration, J&K, Shakeel-ul-Rehman, highlighted the human angle associated with the initiative.

He said whoever comes in between patient care and price should be identified and penal-

ized. In her welcome address, State Drugs Controller cum Member Secretary, PMRU, J&K, Lotika Khajuria, highlighted about the importance of organizing this workshop in the context of Drug Price mechanism.

She said that the proposal for setting up of J&K, PMRU was made against the backdrop of the lack of field level link between National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), State Drug Controller's (SDC's) and subordinate enforcement authorities while monitoring drug prices.

Pankaj Kumar, Deputy Director, NPPA, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Union Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, said that the Central Government is

working tirelessly to reduce out of pocket expenses of common people.

He further said that recently National Pricing Authority has capped trade margin for 42 select non-scheduled anti-cancer medicine under trade margin rationalization approach. During the workshop, Dr. Vishal R. Tandon, Professor, GMC, Jammu and Surinder Mohan, Deputy Drugs Controller, J&K presented the power point presentations on Drug Price Regulation under the provisions of DPCO, 2013.

Senior officers of health department, JKMSCL, Drug Control Organization, and Pharma manufacturing and trade association attended the workshop.

**UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL
SHAKTI MECH. DIVISION NORTH JAMMU**

e-mail: xennorth@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 126 of 2023-24

For and on behalf of Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Jammu, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from the reputed/registered firms/Sole Prop. for the below mentioned work:-

S. No.	Name of work	Cost of document/tender fee (In Rs.)	Earnest money	Validity of Rates	Bid validity
1.	Repair to 62 KW KSB make KRT pumpset having discharge 1.10 lakh GPH x 30 mtrs. Head alongwith allied works installed at Collection Channel in Sitee.	200/-	02% of the Quoted amount	180 days	180 days

Date of Publishing : 15-07-2023 02.00 pm.

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 15-07-2023 (02.00 pm).
- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 15-07-2023 (02.00 pm) to 21-07-2023 (02.00 pm).
- The complete bidding process will be online <http://jktenders.gov.in>.
- The Technical bids received shall be opened online on 22-07-2023 (02.00 pm) or any other subsequent date in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division North Jammu.
- The Financial bid of the bidders shall be opened online after scrutinizing the technical bid in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- Cost of bidding document in shape of e-challan/single window challan of JMC pledged to Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu/tender fee receipt through online payment through the JMC link <http://www.jmcjammu.org/online-payment.html>
- The original instruments in respect of cost of document, EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR and other relevant document of L1 bidder will be required to be submitted to the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu after opening of financial bids on line. No separate intimation about opening of financial bids will be sent by this office / by the tender opening authority. In case the original documents are not submitted by the L1 bidder opening of financial bid, the tender will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further / future tendering process in the division for a period of one year.
- The date and time of opening of financial bids will be notified on website <http://jktenders.gov.in> and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.
- The original documents when submitted by L1 bidder for the cost of tender documents, specified in the tender document should be same as uploaded on line (Scanned copies) otherwise allotment will not be issued, the tenders will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further / future tendering process in the division for a period of one year.
- Only such firms should submit tender, who have requisite infrastructure and workshop facility for carrying out similar type of job which may be inspected by the competent authority before awarding the job contract so as to access the working capacity of the tenderer. The workmanship and material used should be of high quality and as per the specifications of the job order / tender.
- The bid for the execution of work shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the earnest money of the firm shall stand forfeited.
- The tenderers are advised to visit the site of work / inspect the parts to be fabricated before uploading their tenders so as to acquaint themselves with exact measurement and site conditions.
- Special conditions as per Finance Department order No. OM A/24 (2017)-651 dated 07-06-2018.
 - Furnishing of hard copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as L-1 after opening of financial bids.
 - The cost of tenders should be collected by introducing e-challan or simply uploading a copy of necessary challan / receipt.
 - Similarly, instead of insisting on actual call deposit receipt, a copy of same duly pledged to the concerned department should be uploaded by the tenderers. However, before allotting the work or issuing the supply order, the original CDR/FDR should be obtained and kept on record.
- Other details, instructions and terms and conditions can be seen / downloaded from the bidding document.

JSM/MD/1924-26
Dated: 14-07-2023

DIP/J-5117/23

SD/
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
JAL SHAKTI MECH. DIVISION NORTH
JAMMU

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA UNION TERRITORY JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL DIVISION, JAMMU**

Tele-fax: +91-191-2453122, Email: xen-mdjammu@k.gov.in / mdjxen@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

On behalf of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor Government of Jammu & Kashmir, Bids are invited by the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Jammu by e-Tendering mode for undertaking the below mentioned work as per SBD/BOQ.

S.NO.	e-NIT NO.	Description of the work	Cost of the tender	Time of Completion	Tender Opening Authority
1.	MDI/Tech/e-NIT/2023-24/13 Dated 13.07.2023 Due on 26.07.2023	REPAIR TO TANDEM VIBRATORY ROLLER - 10518	200.00	15 days	Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division, Jammu
2.	MDI/Tech/e-NIT/2023-24/14 Dated 13.07.2023 Due on 26.07.2023	REPAIR TO DR-620 WILSON	200.00	10 days	Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division, Jammu
3.	MDI/Tech/e-NIT/2023-24/15 Dated 13.07.2023 Due on 26.07.2023	REPAIR TO DIESEL ROAD ROLLER - 361 WILSON	200.00	10 days	Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division, Jammu
4.	MDI/Tech/e-NIT/2023-24/16 Dated 13.07.2023 Due on 26.07.2023	DAY TO DAY MAINTENANCE OF ELECTRONICS, ELECTRICAL GADGETS MECHANICAL PLUMBING CIVIL AND OTHER RELATED WORKS OF MED COMPLEX JAMMU (SERVICING AND REPAIR OF VARIOUS AC'S INSTALLED IN M,ED COMPLEX JAMMU INCLUDING WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM ON ROOF TOP OF MED COMPLEX JAMMU)	200.00	10 days	Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division, Jammu
5.	MDI/Tech/e-NIT/2023-24/17 Dated 13.07.2023 Due on 26.07.2023	REPAIR TO TANDEM VIBRATORY ROLLER - 1778893	200.00	15 days	Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division, Jammu

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information eligibility criteria, specifications, terms and conditions, bill of quantities can be seen/downloaded from J&K Govt. Website www.jktenders.gov.in.

All other information regarding the e-NIT can be had from the office of the undersigned on any working day during the working hours before due date.

SD/
DIP/J-5125/23

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MECHANICAL DIVISION
JAMMU

**UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) CITY DIVISION NO.II JAMMU**

NOTICE INVITING E- TENDER

E-NIT No PHEC/II/20 OF 2023-24

The Executive Engineer JAL SHAKTI (PHE) City Division No.II Jammu for and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir invites tenders by e-tendering from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Government, (UT now) for the below mentioned works:

S. No	Name of work.	Estd. Cost	Cost of documents	Earnest Money	Time of completion	Class of contractor
1	Work No 1 Improvement of water supply of Greater Kailash at different lanes and spots by laying of new water pipes under in Ward no 68 under JMC capex New works. Work No 2 Improvement and extension of water supply of sector D E near Park EP 2 of Sainik Colony at spots Ward No 70 new works JMC capex. Work No 3 Improvement of water supply of Sector C Sainik Colony near NH0 389-390 and House No Lane of 111 C Ward No 69 under JMC capex New works.	Rs. 1485334/-	Rs.500/-	Rs. 29707/-	60 Days	A,B, C and Dee
2	Work No 1 Improvement of water supply of Nanak Nagar area of Ward no 42 Nanak Nagar under JMC Capex New works. Work No 2 Improvement of water supply of various sector of Nanak Nagar in Ward No 43 under JMC capex New works. Work No 3 Improvement of water supply of Nanak Nagar Ward No 44 under JMC Capex New works.	Rs. 1180841/-	Rs.500/-	Rs.23617/-	60 Days	A,B, C and Dee
3	Improvement of water supply of Sector 1 Sainik Colony near the House No 390 and others under WSS Sainik Colony under District Capex.	Rs. 299442/-	Rs. 500/-	Rs. 6000/-	60 Days	A,B, C and Dee
4	Improvement of water supply in Lanes in Ward No 74 under JMC capex New works.	Rs. 362320/-	Rs. 500/-	Rs. 7246/-	60 Days	A,B, C and Dee
5	Improvement of water supply in Gangyal areas in Ward No 56 under JMC capex New works.	Rs. 488760/-	Rs. 500/-	Rs.9776/-	60 Days	A,B, C and Dee
6	Improvement of water supply of Channi Himmat at spots in Ward No 50 under JMC Capex.	Rs. 5000000/-	Rs. 500/-	Rs. 10000/-	60 Days	A,B, C and Dee
7	Improvement of water supply from House of Nairinder Singh and Pawan Singh at Deep Nagar and Vikky Mohalla in Uttar Nagar Ward No 58 under JMC Capex New works.	Rs. 435494/-	Rs. 500/-	Rs. 8710/-	60 Days	A,B, C and Dee
8	Improvement of water supply by laying of GI pipes in Nai Basti in Ward No 23 under JMC capex New works.	Rs. 484682/-	Rs. 500/-	Rs.9694/-	60 Days	A,B, C and Dee
9	Improvement of water supply in A.K.S. Nagar Digiana in Ward No 58 and Ashok Budh Vihar at New Deshmeh Nagar Part I under JMC capex New works.	Rs. 455694/-	Rs. 500/-	Rs. 9114/-	60 Days	A,B, C and Dee
10	Work No 1 Improvement of water supply by laying of GI pipes for Distribution network and allied at Digiana in Ward No 45 under JMC Capex New works. Work No 2 Improvement of water supply by laying of GI pipes at Sanjay Nagar Extension Sector from Mini Bore Sanjay nagar Ward No 46 under JMC capex New works. Work No 3 Improvement of water supply in A.K.S. Nagar Digiana in Ward No 58 and Ashok Budh Vihar at New Deshmeh Nagar Part II under JMC capex New works.	Rs. 1618036/-	Rs. 500/-	Rs.32361/-	60 Days	A,B, C and Dee

Position of Funds: Available	AA = Accorded
1. Date of issue of Tender Notice.	15.07.2023
2. Date of Publishing.	15.07.2023 04.00 PM
3. Period of Publishing of bidding documents.	15.07.2023 05.00 PM
4. Bid Submission Start date.	15.07.2023 08.00 PM
5. Bid Submission End date	22.07.2023 04.00 PM
6. Date and time of opening of pre qualification bids (online).	24.07.2023 03.00 PM

- The Tender can be downloaded from J&K Govt. website.
- Cost of bidding document in shape of e-challan/single window challan of JMC pledged to Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE City Division No II Jammu / tender fee receipt through online payment through the JMC link <http://www.jmcjammu.org/online-payment.html>
- Scanned copy of the EMD will also be required to be uploaded along with the original instruments in respect of cost of documents, Performance security @ 3% and relevant documents of Lowest Bidder (L1) will be required to be submitted to the Executive Engineer JAL SHAKTI (PHE) City Division No II Jammu within 07(Seven) days of opening of financial bids on-line. In case the original documents are not submitted by the Lowest Bidder (L1) within 07 (Seven) days after opening of financial bid, the tender of lowest bidder will be rejected and the lowest bidder (L1) will not be allowed to participate in any further / future tendering process in the Divisional office for a period of two years. The work can be offered to L-2 after necessary approvals etc. from competent authority.
- The complete bidding process shall be online from 15.07.2023 to 22.07.2023 04.00PM and shall be opened on 24.07.2023 at 3:00 PM or on any convenient date in the office of Executive Engineer JAL SHAKTI (PHE) City Division No.II Jammu. In case office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids due to holiday, bids shall be opened on the next working day or any other date convenient to the tender opening authority, particularly keeping in view the ongoing restrictions on account of COVID-19.
- If any bidder quotes rates below than 25%, of the advertised cost his bids shall be rejected.
- The performance security shall be forfeited, if any bidder withdraws his online bid/tender during the period of bid validity or fails to start the work within stipulated period.
- No Engineer of Gazetted rank or other Gazetted officer employed in Engineering or Administrative duties in an Engineering Department of the State Government is allowed to work as a contractor for a period of two years after his retirement from Government service, without permission of the Government. The contract is liable to be cancelled if either the contractor or any of his employees is found any time to be such a person who had not obtained the permission of the Government as foresaid before submission of the tender or engagement in the Contractor's Service.
- The contractor or intending bidder are advised to understand the nature of job advertised in E.NIT. He may contact this office for any further discussion in case of a doubt.
- If any 'typographical error' omission in respect of rate/ unit is found in the E.NIT it shall be corrected as per sanctioned schedule of rates 2022.
- Any item other than the advertised, required to be executed at site, shall be allowed to be executed by the contractor at par with the SSR 2022 Rates .
- The work identified for execution shall be started within 07 days from the date of allotment. Delay in completion of particular work within the stipulated period shall attract a penalty upto 10% of the contract value for delay upto one month and @ 20% for the period exceeding one month shall be imposed upon the concerned contractor
- The accepting authority reserves the right of accepting or rejecting any or all e-tenders without assigning any reason.
- Nothing extra shall be paid on the negotiated rates.
- In case contractor fails to take up / complete emergent/ urgent works in time, the same shall be got executed at the risk and cost of the contractor and the allotment may be terminated without any notice besides, the CDR shall be forfeited. Any additional amount involved for execution of work shall be recovered from the contractor.
- The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened on the specified date or any other dates convenient to the tender opening authority in the office of Executive Engineer JAL SHAKTI (PHE) City Division No.II Jammu.
- The bidders are instructed to read the BOQ carefully, any items showing blank cells in the column of rates shall be treated as rates to be quoted . The bidder should accordingly bid rates for all the items (unbalanced bids shall be rejected). Moreover, nothing extra than the advertised items shall be paid instruction to the bidder regarding e-tendering process.
 - The interested bidder can download the NIT/bidding documents from the website www.jktenders.gov.in

SD/
NO PHEC/II 1984-1410
Dated: 14-07-2023

DIP/J-5181/23

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
JAL SHAKTI (PHE) CITY DIVISION NO.II
JAMMU

**UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL
SHAKTI MECH. DIVISION NORTH JAMMU**

e-mail: xennorth@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 127 of 2023-24

For and on behalf of Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Jammu, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from the reputed/registered firms/Sole Prop. for the below mentioned work:-

S. No.	Name of work	Cost of document/tender fee (In Rs.)	Earnest money	Validity of Rates	Bid validity
1.	Providing, laying, installation, testing and commissioning of copper cable 300 mm sq. and allied works at Sitee under District Capex.	200/-	02% of the Quoted amount	180 days	180 days

Position of AAA: Accorded

Position of TS: Accorded

Date of Publishing : 15-07-2023 02.00 pm.

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 15-07-2023 (02.00 pm).
- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 15-07-2023 (02.00 pm) to 20-07-2023 (02.00 pm).
- The complete bidding process will be online <http://jktenders.gov.in>.

JSM/MD/1927-29
Dated: 14-07-2023

DIP/J-5174/23

SD/
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
JAL SHAKTI MECH. DIVISION NORTH
JAMMU

Div Com reviews progress of JMRDA, Smart City projects

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JULY 17: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, who is also the Additional Chief Executive Officer of the Jammu Metropolitan Region Development Authority (JMRDA), today chaired a meeting to review the progress of different projects under the purview of the JMRDA.

The meeting was attended by key officials including Commissioner JMC, Deputy Commissioner Samba, Vice Chairman JDA, Chief Engineer PWD, Deputy Director Planning, Chief Accounts Officer JMRDA, Architect of JMRDA, Executive Engineer ERA and other concerned officers while Deputy Commissioner Kathua participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

The meeting assessed the status of ongoing projects and discussed strategies for expediting their completion within the stipulated timelines.

The Div Com examined the progress of the projects, encompassing the development and up-

EMPHASISES ON TIMELINE COMPLETION OF WORKS



gradation of Transport Nagar Jammu, the construction of a modern parking facility, the establishment of green spaces and pathways in Hiranagar Town and the provision of amenities for the prestigious upgrading of Transport Nagar project. It was informed that the drainage and culvert slab works are nearing completion, with the work of installation of paver blocks and road construction in progress. The concerned officers expressed their commitment to ensure timely completion of the project.

To accelerate the construction of the vital flyover bridge connecting the circular road with the iconic Heritage complex in Jammu. Taking comprehensive review, officials reported substantial progress on various fronts. Regarding the upgrading of Transport Nagar project, it was informed that the drainage and culvert slab works are nearing completion, with the work of installation of paver blocks and road construction in progress. The concerned officers expressed their commitment to ensure timely completion of the project.

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grading the way for further progress.

During the meeting, executing agencies responsible for the projects shared updates on the progress made, with some projects at advanced stages of execution.

The Div Com issued directions to the concerned departments to expedite the pace of work on all ongoing projects and promptly initiate the tendering process for pending works. Furthermore, the Div Com instructed Deputy Commissioners to personally supervise the progress and conduct regular on-site inspections. To foster accountability, the executing agencies were mandated to submit periodic progress reports.

The Div Com emphatically called on the executive agencies to redouble their efforts and ensure the timely completion of the projects within the set timelines. Later in another meeting, the Divisional Commissioner reviewed the progress on ongoing projects being executed in Jammu city under the Smart city projects.

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri reviews arrangements for Independence Day celebrations

J I NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, JULY 17: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, today reviewed the arrangements for the Independence Day celebrations here at a meeting of officers. The meeting discussed the features of cultural program, composition of parade, and award presentations etc, besides arrangements for sanitation, drinking water, power supply, medical care, emergency services and security.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the significance of the day and urged officials to put in coordinated efforts to ensure that all arrangements are put in place well in time. The day will begin with Shehnaaz Vadan by the Information Department, followed by the flag hoisting ceremony and parade comprising contingents of District Police, NCC, CRPF, BSF, Home guard, JKFF, and ITBP.

To ensure that the celebrations are conducted smoothly, the Deputy Commissioner instructed officials to ensure adequate security arrangements, cleanliness, illumination of government buildings, parking facilities, traffic management, and proper seating arrangements at the main venue. The meeting was attended by the Commandant CRPF 72 Bn Rajouri; ADC Rajouri, Rajeev Kumar Khajuria; ASP, Vivek Shekhar; GM DIC, Ashwini Sharma; CEO Tourism, Vivek Puri; ACR, Imran Rashid Kataria; SE Jal Shakti, Bharam Jyoti Sharma; SE PWD(R&B); DSEO, Sandeep Sharma and other concerned officers.

DC, SSP inspect civic amenities in Doda Town

J I NEWS SERVICE

DODA, JULY 17: Deputy Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan, and the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Abdul Qayoom today conducted a surprise tour of Doda town to take stock of civic amenities being provided by the Municipal Council (MC). The purpose of the inspection was to assess and ensure efficient and effective provision of public services in the town.

During their visit, they also inspected various medical shops and a nursing home to check the compliance to regulations and the provision of high-quality services. They assessed the infrastructure, cleanliness, and availability of the medical facilities.

Furthermore, the DC took stock of the traffic management system in Doda town as they evaluated traffic flow, Condition of roads and the effectiveness of traffic signages. The DC directed the concerned authorities to address the issues or bottlenecks to enhance overall traffic management in the area.

Later, the DC and SSP visited the construction site of the multi-storey car parking facility coming up in the bus stand. They assessed the progress of the construction work and emphasized the importance of timely completion of the project. The DC and SSP appealed to the people to participate in making Doda congestion free and clean.

DC Ramban chairs rent assessment committee meeting

J I NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, JULY 17: The District Rent Assessment Committee (DRAC) today approved 18 rent assessment cases of different departments here at its meeting chaired by Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Musarrat Islam.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Harbans Lal Sharma, ACR, Gias-ul-Haq, District officers of various departments and officers from the Police and Army, besides owners of buildings attended the meeting.

The rent cases pertaining to Police, FCS&CA, Army, Revenue, Education, Health, PMGSY, and other departments were approved by the Committee.

As many as 19 rent assessment cases were put up for discussion, out of which 18 cases were approved by the Committee in the presence of building owners and respective departmental representatives.

Religious fervor, gaiety marks Amavasya festival celebration at Purmandal, Uttarbehni

J I NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA, JULY 17: Amavasya festival was today celebrated with religious fervour at Purmandal/Uttarbehni in the District Samba.

Nearly 1 lakh devotees thronged the twin shrines of Purmandal and Uttarbehni to pay obeisance and joined the festivities which began on Monday morning.

Deputy Commissioner, Abhishek Sharma also participated in Devika Pujan along with devotees, PRI members, officers from the district and police administration, besides, children from Sanskrit Ved Vidyalaya.

Purmandal 'Chota Kashi', is a place of immense religious significance for Hindus from times immemorial. It is an important pilgrimage center situated at a distance of 40 km from Jammu City, on the banks of the river Devika. The Devika is prominently known as the Gupt Ganga which bifurcate this highly sacred town into two equal parts. The Devika is known to have originated during the last phase of the Dwapar period.

The UT Government and local administration and all concerned departments and agencies had made elaborate arrangements for the pilgrims in coordination with the management of the Dharmarth Trust.

The locals complimented the Government and Deputy Commissioner Samba and his team for making satisfactory arrangements at the site. They also evoked confidence that such activities would increase the footprint of tourists at the holy site of Purmandal/Uttarbehni.

SKUAST-Jammu conducts awareness programme on "Career opportunities for Veterinary graduates"

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JULY 17: Under able guidance and leadership of Dr. B.N. Tripathi, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, a one day awareness programme on "Career opportunities for Veterinary graduates in Indian Army and other Sectors" under NAHEP-IDP, SKUAST-Jammu conducted by Counselling and Placement Cell, SKUAST-Jammu at Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry, R.S. Pura campus. The event was held to provide an opportunity to the upcoming veterinary graduates to discuss and exchange ideas/knowledge/experiences with the experts/resource per-



sons and to give exposure to them on scope and opportunities for their career in the Indian Army with special reference to the Remount Veterinary Corps and other sectors.

Dr. M. S. Bhadwal, Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences & AH, SKUAST-Jammu was the chief guest on the occasion and he inaugurated the programme in presence of Faculty members, experts and students. Dr.

Bhadwal congratulated the University Placement Cell for organising the one day awareness programme for Vet Graduates as such programme will motivate the students to pursue career in Indian Army as an Officer and also a vet graduate can contribute much more to the society by becoming a civil servant, while Prof. Sanjay Gularia, I/c, Counselling and Placement cell, SKUAST-J gave an overall

picture of various activities undertaken in SKUAST-Jammu under Counselling and Placement Cell with an objective to create awareness in regard to different avenues for their placements.

During the programme, Lt. Col. (Dr) Sudhir Karnal Sharma, Instructor, Dog Training Faculty, RVC Center and College, Meerut Cantt. (UP) delivered a lecture on "Scopes and career opportunities

of Veterinary graduates in Indian Army with special reference to Remount Veterinary Corps (RVC) while Dr. Nikhil Gogna, JKFS SPO, R.S. Pura delivered a lecture on "Scopes and career opportunities of veterinary graduates in Civil Services". At the outset, Dr. Kamal Sarma, I/c Head, Division of Veterinary Extension Education and Liaison Officer, Counselling and Placement Cell, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences & AH, who is also the coordinator of the programme, heartily welcomed the Chief Guest and other dignitaries as well as the speakers of the programme. He gave the detailed information of one day the awareness programme.

Commissioner Secretary I&C inaugurates JKEDI's Startup Leadership Summit

'GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO FACILITATE, MENTOR AND GUIDE STARTUPS IN J&K'



J I NEWS SERVICE

PAMPORE, JULY 17: Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce (I&C), Vikramjit Singh today inaugurated 'Two-Day Startup Leadership Summit' at Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) campus Sempora here.

The Summit is being organized by JKEDI in collaboration with the India Network with an aim to cultivate a robust ecosystem for entrepreneurship and innovation across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Summit is being held under overall guidance of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha and featured distinguished line-up of industry experts and successful entrepreneurs who shared their insights and exper-

ise to empower aspiring and existing entrepreneurs. Large number of entrepreneurs from across Jammu and Kashmir are also participating in the Summit.

Delivering an insightful address on the occasion, the Commissioner Secretary said that government of J&K is going to be an enabling factor and facilitating guiding and mentoring startups in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The UT is embarking into a new phase of certainty and stability with lots of opportunities and we are committed to enrich and empower this ecosystem so that an entire society will benefit from it", he said.

In his welcome address, Director, JKEDI, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat said, "The summit will cover essential topics such as financial planning, marketing strategies, legal and regulatory frame-

works, and access to funding opportunities". The Director further highlighted that the event will emphasize on the significance of innovation and the utilization of emerging technologies in driving business growth.

"JKEDI is always available for entrepreneurs and will work towards creating a sustainable startup ecosystem in J&K", he said.

Founder and CEO of Wyn Studio, Sonia Khurana, in her address spoke in length about the essence of storytelling in entrepreneurship. Her session titled "Kahani Kya Hai" (What's the Story), explored the power of storytelling and its impact on building a successful startup.

Founder and CEO of India Network, Rahul Narvekar, shared his extensive experience and guided participants on how to build a startup from scratch.

His session provided valuable insights and practical strategies for turning entrepreneurial visions into thriving businesses. He added that our goal is to create 100 startup stories in J&K.

Co-founders of Alpha Consultants, Dinesh Singh and Amit Mishra shared their expertise in business consulting and financial management to educate attendees on the intricacies of generating funding for their ventures.

J&K stands number one in Geo Tagging of Union Ministry's CDPs

J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JULY 17: Jammu and Kashmir stands number one in Geo Tagging of Cluster Development Projects (CDPs) in the country, implemented by Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

This achievement of Jammu and Kashmir will result in faster approval of projects, timely release of funds from central government, which will result in faster growth of MSME's across J&K.

Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) is implementing Cluster Development Projects in the country including J&K through which central government's grant upto 80% is applicable for common facility centre projects and 70% for development of Industrial Estates.

J&K has received 10 projects from Ministry of MSME for the development of Industrial Estates and Common Facility Centers (CFCs). MSME-DFO Jammu, field office of Union Ministry of MSME, takes lead role in implementation of various schemes including Cluster Development projects for the benefit of MSME sector of the region.

The total project value of CFCs and ID's in J&K is Rs. 90.73 crore approximately. Recently, the Union Ministry called for Geo Tagging all the projects under MSE-CDP for all states including J&K. An app was also developed by Ministry, used for tracking the performance, including completion, percentage of completion of the projects sanctioned under MSE-CDP, which are monitored online based on the photographs taken through the Geo app.

In Jammu and Kashmir two teams were appointed for Jammu and Kashmir divisions for completing this task. The teams worked with full spirit and completed the Geo Tagging of all the projects, completed and ongoing across J&K.

Doda hosts 2-day Lal Draman Festival from Aug 5

DC FINALISES ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEGA EVENT

J I NEWS SERVICE

DODA, JULY 17: In the run up of hosting the much anticipated Lal Draman festival, Deputy Commissioner Vishesh Mahajan today chaired a meeting to finalise the arrangements for the mega event.

The 2-day festival is scheduled to start from August 5th in the sprawling Lal Draman meadows. The meeting discussed

the action plan and inventory of activities, besides holding detailed discussion on varied arrangements for the visitors.

"Transportation" logistics for the festival were thoroughly reviewed, and the Deputy Commissioner set timelines for key arrangements to be made for the event. Emphasizing the importance of adequate facilities, the DC instructed the concerned officers to make provision of tents, electric generators, lights, sound systems and other necessary amenities by August 4th without fail.

To maintain cleanliness and hygiene, the Deputy Commissioner directed the officials to deploy an adequate number of sanitation staff two days prior to the event.

Further, he urged the Power Development Department (PDD) and the Municipal Committee Doda to take measures for proper lighting at the venue and the approach paths leading to it, to ensure a hassle-free experience for the visitors.

The meeting was attended by all district officers and representatives from relevant

departments, demonstrating the collective effort put forth to make the festival a resounding success. The Deputy Commissioner also addressed the security arrangements, urging the Superintendent of Police (SP) Doda to finalize the necessary measures to facilitate a safe and secure environment throughout the festival.

The DC discussed the adventure sports and activities to be organized during the festival, including marathons, zip-lining, kabaddi, and cultural programs.