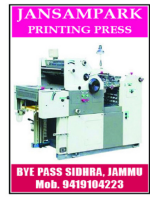


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New IT towers meticulously designed to soon come up in J&K: LG Sinha



JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 18

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha chaired a review-cum-consultation meeting on Cyber Security, capacity building of knowledge based industries and reforms in School Education sector, at Raj Bhawan today.

The deliberation with officers of Industries & Commerce, Department of Information Technology and domain experts focussed on latest technological advancements, establishment of a Centre of excellence for cyber security and introducing academic courses on Artificial Intelligence, Coding, Big Data etc.

"New IT Towers meticulously designed for growth of the Information Technology industry will soon come up in J&K and it will create more jobs and fuel tech growth. Content creation and sharing with students on latest skills, awareness on IT Jobs and opportunities for startups

will propel the IT industry and will make J&K the hub of Information and Communication Technology", the Lt Governor said.

Discussing the reforms in school education, the Lt Governor said that there is a need to systematically identify and to bridge the gaps in School Education sector in terms of Infrastructure, Skill development at par with Global standards.

The Lt Governor also emphasised on

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Govt calls All-Party Meeting ahead of Monsoon session



AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUL 18

The Government has convened an all-party meeting on Wednesday to deliberate on a host of issues related to Parliament's monsoon session, which will begin from July 20.

It's a customary get-together on the eve of a session's start as various parties put across their issues at the meeting attended by senior government ministers. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also participated in many such

meetings.

A similar all-party meeting called on Tuesday by Rajya Sabha Chairperson Jagdeep Dhankhar has been deferred due to non-availability of leaders of many parties. While opposition parties are holding a meeting in Bengaluru, the ruling National Democratic Alliance is meeting in the national capital.

With the BJP and opposition parties sharpening attacks on each other as they gear up for a host of

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Major success for army after four months of hunting, four terrorists killed in covert operation in Poonch



AGENCIES
JAMMU, JUL 18

After over three months of hunting, the Army on Tuesday struck first major success after months by killing four foreign terrorists in an intelligence based covert operation, who were involved in a series of terror attacks, which had claimed lives of army personnel and civilians in Rajouri-Poonch sector in the recent past.

Well-placed defence sources told news agency, that security forces including Army's elite

Para commandos continued the hunting operation in the thick forests area in Rajouri - Poonch to eliminate terrorists group involved in recent terror attacks in the sector including May 5 ambush

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

ATM Guard's Killing SIA raids houses of 3 LeT terrorists, other places in South Kashmir

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 18

The State Investigation Agency (SIA) conducted raids at multiple locations, including houses

of three Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists, in three districts of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday in connection with the killing of bank ATM guard Sanjay Sharma earlier this year,

officials said. Sharma was killed by militants in Achan area of Pulwama in south Kashmir in February. The SIA, during its third round

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Embracing AI to bring efficiency in working of government offices: CS



JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 18

Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today launched 'JK Saranash', a first of its kind Artificial Intelligence (AI) tool for document summarization developed by the Information Technology Department of the UT.

On the occasion the Chief Secretary compli-

mented the Department for embarking on the path of adopting modern technology and tools to bring in efficiency and accountability into the government processes. He asked them to work towards adopting the tool that aids in identifying the habitual miscreants in different departments working against larger public interests.

Dr Mehta even advised the local NIC to generate reports highlighting the performance of different government departments onboard on e-office. He called for pinpointing different users whose disposal of files is poor or whose take-off on the software is negligible. He made out that such an attitude on part of any

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Two labourers killed as landslide hits construction site in Udhampur



JNEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, JUL 18

Two labourers were killed and six others injured after a landslide hit an under-construction building in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district on Tuesday, officials said.

A group of labourers were busy in construction

work at Kallar near vegetable market in Udhampur town when they came under the landslide around 11.45 am, a police official said.

He said a rescue operation was launched immediately and six labourers were rescued in an injured condition and shifted

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Lt Governor inaugurates 3-day long Amrit Yuva Kalotsav at Srinagar

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 18

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha inaugurated the 3-day long Amrit Yuva Kalotsav, organised by Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi and J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, at Tagore Hall, Srinagar, today.

The festival of music, dance and drama commemorates the 75 years of India's Independence.

In his address on the occasion, the Lt Governor commended the endeavour of Sangeet Natak Akademi and J&K Academy of



Art, Culture & Languages for providing a platform to young artists from across the country to showcase their talents.

He said, the young artists from different states

and UTs are getting an opportunity to fill crores of souls with their performances.

"Music, dance, theatre are not merely art

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

US secretary Jennifer calls on Dr Jitendra, discusses bilateral collaboration



AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUL 18

US Secretary, Department of Energy, Ms Jennifer M. Granholm, who is equivalent of a union Cabinet Minister in India, called on Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space Dr Jitendra Singh at North Block here today and discussed bilateral collaboration between the two countries.

The meeting assumes special significance as it comes close on the heels

of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's US visit. Ms Jennifer was accompanied by a high-level American delegation.

India and the United States also jointly launched a call for proposals on Critical and Emerging Technology: Quantum Technologies and Artificial Intelligence for Transforming Lives. The Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF) and the Secretariat for USISTEP have designed the program.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, through this competitive grant program,

First batch of Haj Pilgrims from J&K returns

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 18

The first batch of 316 pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir returned from the annual Haj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, a spokesperson said.

Divisional Commissioner (Kashmir) Vijay Kumar Bidhuri and other senior civil and police officials received the pilgrims at Srinagar International Airport.

Upon their arrival, Bidhuri greeted the pilgrims on performing Haj and for the successful culmination



of their "holy journey". During his interaction with the pilgrims, the divisional commissioner enquired about the arrangements made for their smooth and peaceful pilgrimage. He also

took stock of the arrangements made for the arrival of pilgrims and instructed the officials concerned to ensure a comfortable and hassle-free movement towards their respective native places.

Over 12,000 pilgrims embarked on the pilgrimage from Jammu and Kashmir this year. Additionally, 111 women without Mahram also performed the Haj.

National Conference chief and Srinagar MP Farooq Abdullah also visited the airport to receive the pilgrims.

Amarnath Yatra | Amid heavy rains fresh batch of 6225 pilgrims leave from Jammu base camp

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUL 18

Chanting 'Bam Bam Bhole' as many as 6225 pilgrims amid heavy rains left from Bhagwati Nagar Base Camp here on Tuesday for Shri Amarnath Cave Shrine in South Kashmir Himalayas.

An official said that a batch of 6225 pilgrims left



the base camp in a convoy of 217 vehicles. A group of

101 sadhus and 12 sadhvis left for Pahalgam in a convoy of 131 vehicles.

For Baltal, 2511 pilgrims comprising (1545 males, 955 females and seven children and four sadhus) left in a convoy of 86 vehicles amid tight security arrangements.

The yatra started on July 1 will conclude on August 31.

7374 pilgrims (2790 males, 793 females, 18 children,

Opposition alliance to be called 'INDIA': Congress Chief Kharge



AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUL 18

The opposition alliance that will take on the ruling NDA in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections will be called Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) and an 11-member committee will be set up for coordination, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge announced on Tuesday.

Addressing a joint press conference after a meeting of 26 opposition parties in Bengaluru, Kharge said, "This was a very important meeting to save democracy and the

Constitution in the interest of the people of the country." "We have come together and discussed various points. With one voice, people supported the resolution adopted today," he said.

"Our alliance will be called Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA)," Kharge said.

He said an 11-member coordination committee will be set up and its composition will be finalised in the next meeting in Mumbai. The dates for the Mumbai meeting will be announced soon.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

NC, PDP, Copng lost touch: MP Khatana



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 18 : BJP MP Rajya Sabha Gulam Ali Khatana said that certain elements are hell bent to derail the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to bring back peace, tranquility and development in Jammu and Kashmir by encouraging and supporting divisive tendencies among the people. He said that PDP, NC, Congress have lost touch with the ground and people have rejected them lock, stock, barrel. Now these parties are trying to

incite people in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir to again unleash violence and terrorism.

Addressing a massive public gathering at Sansar in district Ramban MP Gulam Ali said that unprecedented measures have been initiated by the PM Narendra Modi on both political and economic front so that the poor and economically deprived people of UT could reap the benefits. He said that PM Modi led government provided political reservation to 51s and reserved 9 seats for ST population.

Besides Govt. provided reservation to people living on LoC, International border, Rs 5 Lakh to POJK refugees.

He said that Home Minister Amit Shah announced during public rallies in Jammu and Rajouri that Paharis will be provided ST status but share of Gujjar Bakkarwals won't be lowered and very shortly a Bill will be introduced in the Parliament to that effect.

MP Gulam Ali said that Govt of India has implemented Forest Rights Act and recently also framed policy for allotment of 5 marla plots to landless to construct houses under MPAY scheme. But some anti-poor parties are spreading canards by claiming that outsiders will be settled in UT which is totally false.

People also highlighted their demands.

District president BJP Ramban Rajeshwar Kumar, Minority Morcha President Tariq Lone, ST Morcha President Utam Singh, Sarpanch Jija Lal, Haji Mohd Yousuf, Haji Mohd Zakir, Haji Salam Din, Ec, Sarpanch Choudhary Bashir Ahmed Khatana, Waseem Choudhary, Razaq Ali Chairman

ADDC, Rajinder Kumar Sharma, ASP Ramban Gourav Mahajan and others.

BJP has come a long way due to the hard work of Karyakartas: Rekha Mahajan



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 18 : To stimulate the party workers in Jammu district South monthly meeting was held under the dynamic leadership of BJP District Jammu South President Rekha Mahajan scrutinizing upcoming programs on all organizational Mandals and Constituencies. Today Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu South held a monthly meeting contemplating forthcoming programs to be executed by District Jammu South at the party office in Kachi Chawnti. The meeting

was chaired by Rekha Mahajan in the esteem presence of Sangathan Mantri Inderjeet Sharma and Prabhari Jammu South Ayodhya Gupta including District General Secretaries Pushpinder Charak and Akash Chopra, District office-bearers, Morcha Prabharis, Morcha Presidents including Kissan Morcha, Mahila Morcha, OBC Morcha, SC Morcha and Yuva Morcha.

Rekha while speaking in the meeting, said that the BJP is a party of doctrines, helping for the upliftment of all the columns of the society, irrespective of their religion, caste, and creed. BJP workers are the spine and strength of the party and the BJP provides its workers full opportunity to move ahead and BJP should act as a bridge between the society and the party. She urged the cadre to put in all their efforts for the upcoming elections in J&K.

Giving the Guru Mantra to the BJP karyakartas Rekha Mahajan said, "Booth Jeta loh Chunav Jeta in which the threadbare discussions on the ongoing and upcoming organizational programs being carried out by BJP

Cadres. She said that the role of Shakti Kendras is very important to win the upcoming elections and BJP has come a long way due to the tireless hard work and dedication of party workers .

Ayodhya Gupta educates that BJP is the only party that is moving ahead with the goal "Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas" while working organizationally.

He asserted that in these nine years, under the leadership of Narendra Modi, the country's respect and self-respect have increased in the world.

Inderjeet Sharma addressed the party activists and he applauded the workers and said that they should solve their problems as much as possible in the public in the interest of the nation. He said the purpose of the meeting was to pinpoint and draw a blueprint about the role of Jammu district south to reach out to more and more people across Jammu with volunteers.

Chandrayaan-3 India's remarkable progress in space exploration: Raj Rattan Raina

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 18 : BJP leader Raj Rattan Raina has expressed his heartfelt admiration for the successful launch of Chandrayaan-3, India's lunar mission. He considered this achievement to be a strong testament to India's remarkable progress and increasing expertise in the field of space exploration.

In a statement issued today, Raina lauded the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and the entire team involved in the mission for their dedication, hard work, and unwavering commitment. He emphasized that Chandrayaan-3's successful launch highlights India's determination to push boundaries and attain new heights in scientific and technological advancements.

Raina commended the scientists, engineers, and all the stakeholders



involved in the project for their exceptional skills and efforts, which have placed India at the forefront of global space exploration. He emphasized that

this remarkable achievement will not only inspire the youth of our nation but also enhance India's position in the international space community.

Furthermore, Raina acknowledged the steadfast support and guidance provided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the government in advancing India's space program. He expressed his pride in India's growing prowess and highlighted the importance of continued investments in research, development, and innovation to further propel the country's achievements in the realm of space exploration.

Raina conveyed his warmest congratulations to ISRO and the entire team for their resounding success with Chandrayaan-3. He expressed his optimism for even more significant accomplishments in the future and reiterated the BJP's commitment to supporting India's ambitious space endeavors.

Indian Army organises computer literacy course

J I NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, JUL 18 : In an endeavour to bridge the digital divide and to empower children living in the remote villages, Indian Army has taken a remarkable initiative by organising a computer literacy course at village Kanga, District Ramban (J&K). A total of 30 school students have registered themselves for this 28 days course which has commenced on July 17th at village Kanga. Over the course of next 28 days these children will be educated

on vital digital literacy skills including basic computer operations, internet usage and word processing.

The computer literacy courses conducted by the Indian Army have far-reaching benefits for children in remote villages as they enable students to acquire skills that are increasingly in demand in the modern workforce.

These skills enhance their employability prospects and open up avenues for higher education.

The program promotes inclusivity by bridging the digital divide and

ensuring that children from all backgrounds have equal opportunities to succeed.

Also computer literacy empowers children to become digitally aware citizens, enabling them to access information, communicate effectively and leverage technology for personal and community development.

Students have realised the importance of computer literacy and lauded the efforts of Indian Army for providing necessary exposure and guidance to the young talent.

Birma residents apprise their grievances to senior NC leader

J I NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, JUL 18 : The residents of village Birma in Dhandaoli Panchayat of Udhampur, met with District President JKNC Udhampur, Sunil Verma and highlighted their grievances. During the meeting, the locals voiced their concerns.

Rajesh Parihar, Maya Katoch, Tarif Hussain, and Ravi Kumar from Birma highlighted the unfair treatment they have been receiving and expressed their disappointment that no elected officials were carrying out any works for them. They lamented that no one is willing to listen to the problems faced by the people, whether it be issues with power, electricity, or any other matter.

They pointed out that a few days ago, the water pipes were damaged, leaving the households without water for several days. However, after Sunil Verma was approached, he swiftly resolved the water problem.

Currently, the area is facing a severe electricity crisis. While power cuts are happening everywhere, the people of Birma are particularly affected by low voltage, which is causing immense inconvenience. People are unable to sleep at night and cannot use electrical appliances. With the hot weather and a high pres-

If the land of poor is taken away & given to external states, there will be a major protest: Sunil Verma



ence of mosquitoes, due to the low voltage, children are suffering and crying throughout the night, but nobody seems to listen. All the residents requested Verma to find a solution to this electricity problem so that they can have a peaceful sleep. Verma assured the residents that he will find a solution to the electricity issue within a few days. He mentioned the possibility of installing a large transformer to tackle the low voltage problem.

Verma stated that while many governments have come and gone, it is only the National Conference that has actively worked for the people's welfare. No other government has done what the National Conference has

done in terms of providing job opportunities and addressing people's grievances.

He emphasized that the National Conference is a party for the poor and will always work for their benefit. Its leaders are closely connected to the grassroots, understanding the hardships faced by the common people and finding solutions for them. Now is the time for change and to bring the National Conference back into power so that educated and unemployed youth can find jobs, and all the issues faced by the people can be addressed promptly. Verma further stated that for a solution to this problem, the government needs to listen to the

demands of the people and return the land that was taken away from them. He expressed his opposition to the idea of settling people from other states on the land that rightfully belongs to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He warned that such actions would not be tolerated and may lead to a significant protest.

Verma requested LG Manoj Sinha to prioritize the welfare of the poor people of Jammu and Kashmir and return the land that was taken from them to its rightful owners, rather than settling outsiders on it. Present during the meeting were Inayat Ulla, Ashok Mehra, Akash Verma, Savitri Devi, Sunitha Mehra, Sajjad, and many others.

Tony, CE visit zero line border village of Suchetgarh, assesses severe water crisis

Chief Engineer directs XEns to rectify defunct tube wells in 2 week-time

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 18 : Senior AAP leader Taranjit Singh Tony, along with Chief Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Department, Manoj Gupta today conducted a visit to village Sae in Suchetgarh and the tail end of Rambar Canal at village Devl Garh to assess the problems faced by farmers due to the non-availability of canal water for irrigation purposes.

During the visit, Tony apprised the Chief Engineer about the lack of a reliable water source at the zero line of the border villages, which has led to a severe crisis for the farming community. He emphasized that the lift irrigation system, which should be a lifeline for farmers, is currently dysfunctional and in dire need of attention. He further demanded that high suction powers at Village Sae Molla should be replaced with existing motors as the decreasing water levels have exacerbated the situation.



Tony laid stress upon the importance of a reliable water source for agricultural activities and stressed the need for sustainable solutions to prevent such water crises in the future. He also requested the Chief Engineer to make sure that the Executive Engineer must pay regular visits to the rural areas and have regular meeting with field staff so that the farmers may not face any problem.

SE Vivek Kohli, Executive Engineer Canal, Hafiz Ullah Reshi, Executive Engineer Tubewell Irrigation Rajnish Kohli, Executive Engineer Mechanical Rajiv Mohan along with their AEEs and field staff accompanied the Chief Engineer.

The Chief Engineer acknowledged the challenges faced by the farmers and directed the Executive Engineers to rectify the issues promptly. Besides, he

gave a deadline of two weeks to the Executive Engineers accompanied with him to rectify all the defunct tube wells. Additionally, he laid stress upon improving the existing lift irrigation system to ensure a consistent water supply for irrigation.

Among those who were present include Sarpanch Sarabjit Singh, Sarpanch Tilak Raj Bhagat and Shashi Bhagat.

Security forces achieving success against terrorism: Dr. Manyal

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 18 : Killing of two terrorists in a joint operation by the army and Jammu and Kashmir Police in Krishna Ghati sector of Poonch district and recovery of arms and ammunition from the site, is a big blow to an infiltration attempt along Line of Control (LoC). This was stated by Jammu and Kashmir BJP General Secretary & former Health Minister, Dr. Devinder Manyal, while applauding the valour of the security forces which have been keeping vigil on borders round the clock even putting their lives to risk. He said that in another operation, security forces recovered two IEDs in the Handwara forests in Kupwara district of Kashmir on the same day, which too is a major success.

Dr. Devinder Manyal said that eliminating terrorists and recovering of arms and ammunition from different areas is not first case as the security forces have been continuously conducting major successful operations against the terrorism, resulting in killing of commanders and hard core terrorists, thus breaking the backbone of the across the border sponsored activities aimed at disturbing peace here.

Dr. Manyal claimed that hard strikes on terrorists and busting their hideouts is the result of the zero tolerance towards terrorism under the policy of the Narendra Modi government, which is determined to totally root out the menace of terrorism and restore peace and normalcy.

The BJP leader said that the opera-

tions launched by the security forces have worked towards defeating the nefarious designs of the neighbouring country and anti national elements and there has been remarkable improvement in normalcy in J&K, with people having engaged themselves in their day to day activities fearlessly as a sense of security has been induced among them by the Modi government. The return of peace and normalcy is not being digested by such forces which have been working to destabilise the social scenario, create fears in the minds of the people in J&K and are making attempts to revive terrorism but the brave security forces will fail all such attempts with a strong hand, he said and added that complete peace will prevail here, which is the commitment of the union government.

New Acting workshop by Natrang from 23rd July



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 18 : Natrang Jammu is going to organise a new 'Theatre Workshop for young aspirants' from 23rd of July, 2023 at Natrang Studio Theatre, Jammu. This workshop will have special focus on various elementary aspects of acting. In its continuous effort to provide training and generate awareness about theatre among youth, Natrang Jammu always endeavours to organise Acting workshops for freshers at Natrang Studio Theatre, Kachi Chawri, Jammu. This exclusive Acting Workshop is devised by Padamshree Balwant Thakur which is aimed at providing learning opportunity to young aspirants of theatre. Fact remains that in Jammu there is hardly any such platform where young artists can professionally explore further in the field. With social media in vogue, an endless number of youngsters are engaged in making reels with negligible acting background. Such a trend has lowered the standards and levels of the profession called 'Acting'. In this backdrop, Natrang has taken the initiative to introduce elementary aspects of acting processes and approaches. This workshop will also serve a very noble purpose of making youth aware about their strengths and weaknesses which is a must for their overall personality development and intellectual growth. The workshop will be conducted by the senior faculty of Natrang. The participants will also have the occasion to learn and interact with Balwant Thakur who has got the international exposure of theatre. All those who want to be a part of this training programme and are above 15 years of age may immediately contact Natrang office situated at Municipal Building, Tange Wali Gali, Palace Road Jammu or may mail requests to natrangjammu@gmail.com or telephonically approach the coordinator of the workshop on 9419106669 or 9906048670.

This was informed here today in a press briefing by Natrang which was conducted by senior functionaries of Natrang viz. Neeraj Kant, Anil Tickoo, Sumet Sharma and Rahul Singh.

Theatre certainly hones the skills of its practitioners and makes them more confident, creative, imaginative and spontaneous and that is why Natrang keeps on organizing such workshops for the benefit of the youth, the future of the State. Most importantly theatre helps in sharpening the communication skills of the participants. Moreover, in last few years there is a growing demand of actors in the industry of theatre, events, television and films and just to respond to that, Natrang has taken the initiative to help, support and train the fresh talents. Jammu in the last few years has been very popular in the theatre and television industry and many young talents from Jammu have made a huge name in theatre, films and TV industry. Many known faces of television

like Harish Khanna (Saat Khoon Maar, Film) Bhanu Goswami (Movies), Lakshya (2004), Dhokha (2007), Machhili Jal Ki Raani Hai (2012) and Unfreedom (2014) and television shows Special Squad (2005) as Aryan Khanna, Har Kadam Par Shaque (Specials @ 10 on Sony TV, 2009), Ek Tha Rusty (2012-2013) as Rusty, Hamari Sister Didi (2014) as Dr. Karan, Choker Bali (Rabindranath Tagore's stories on Epic channel, 2015) as Mahendra, Meri Awaaz Hi Pehchaan Hai (2016) as Rajram Gaekwad and Vijay Naamdhaari in 'Saam Daam Dand Bhed', Sunil Palwal (Jolly LLB2, Maha Kumb, 24 'Mughal-e-Azam' 'Yeh Dil Ramta Yogi', 'Chehra-the unknown mask', 'Sattin Sin B's', MTV Rush, 'Shapthal', Rakshak, Sapne Suhaane Ladakpan Ke) Neelu Dogra (1971 Film) Mohit Raina (Devon Ke Dev Maha Dev) Anjali Abrol (Raja Ki Aayegi Baraat, Nachh Balye, Singh Sahab The Great), Juh Singh (Yahaan, Film) Maansi Sharma (Saavdhaan India, Jugadi.com-Punjabi Movie, Malayalam Film-Acha Din, Aasmaan Se Aage, Devon Ke Dev Mahadev, Mahabharat, Pavitra Rishita, Pyaar Ko Ho Jaane Do) Neelam Pathania (Badi Door Se Aaye Hai) Ekta Kaul (Rabb Se Sona Ishq, Tere Angne Mei, Ek Rishta Aisa Bhi, Bade Acche Lagte Hai, Jhalak Dikha Ja-Season 6, Box Cricket League, Yeh Hai Aashiqui), Ijazvi Sharma (Bhanwar), Mohit Sharma (Koi Laut Ke Aaya Hai, Akbar Birbal, CID, Super Cops vs Super Villain, Crime Petrol, Kabool Hai, Guddu Ki Gun Movie, Sun Yaar Try Maar, Beintehaa, Mahi Sagar, Jamai Raja) and Pankush Verma (Kabool Hai, Saavdhan India, CID, Super Cops vs Supper Villain) Vrinda Gurjal (Sabse Bada Kakalar) are from Jammu and most of them are the products of similar kind of Natrang's workshops and training programmes.

Kavinder Gupta hits out at Opposition meeting in Bengaluru

Opposition lack of common ideology, such meetings just to save their sinking ships

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 18 : Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta, while launching a scathing attack on the meetings of Opposition parties in Bengaluru, today emphatically expressed that those who claim to uphold the 'idea of India' are well aware of their questionable commitment towards the nation and its people.

Referring specifically to participants from Jammu and Kashmir in Bengaluru meeting, the BJP stalwart pointed out that these individuals have consistently advocated for engaging in talks with Pakistan, thereby undermining national interests in favor of pursuing their own personal agendas.

"Such individuals cannot be seen as true champions of the country and its people," Kavinder said while addressing a Darbar of members of Muslim brethren in Gandhi Nagar Constituency.

Rekha Mahajan District President, Vinay Gupta, Ankush Gupta, Punitender Singh, Neeraj Puri, Mohd Rafiq, Mohd Alam, Mohd Sadiq, Salman Khan, Aslam, Mir Alan and Ashu were present on the occasion.

The senior BJP leader emphasized that the unity



displayed among the opposition leaders in Bengaluru is merely a façade that masks their inherent ideological differences. The greed for political power and personal gains has driven these leaders to come together in a desperate attempt to salvage their sinking ship. He termed the meeting as a botched attempt to make impossible differences between the opposition parties are full of big gaps and wedges thus making it impossible to have a long lasting friendship.

The senior BJP leader said that the plans and proposals coming out of the meetings being envisaged by the opposition parties would all be short-lived and there are

chances that these meetings will lead to more conflicts and confrontations before the poll time as seat sharing among outfits of different textures is a herculean task and therefore outcome of these 'friendly' meetings of 'conventional foes' is anybody's guess.

While addressing a Darbar of members of Muslim brethren, Kavinder acknowledged the commendable socio-economic growth and empowerment experienced by the Muslim community under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He emphasized that the government has greatly prioritized the welfare and progress of all citizens, regardless of their religious beliefs.

Modi's visionary leadership, India has witnessed substantial improvements in various sectors, such as infrastructure, healthcare, education, and employment, positively impacting all Indian citizens irrespective of caste, colour and religion.

Kavinder urged the people to acknowledge the transformative changes brought by the Modi government. He encouraged everyone to celebrate the peaceful coexistence and collective growth experienced under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The senior BJP leader also assured that the issues put forth by them will be resolved in a time bound manner.

Repair iron bridge at verge of risk at Bagh-E-Bhour: ABS

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 18 : AM Hyundai Jammu, BiAadarsh Bhartiya Samaj, a social volunteer organisation working to promote education, environment, health and nationhood among the general masses and students community in particular by organising different kinds of activities and highlighting general / basis problems faced by the society under the guidance of Col R K Sharma (Retd) Chairman and Sardar Daljeet Singh, President. ABS noted it with concern that Iron bridge bonding Bhour Camp / adjoining villages of the areas with Bagh-E-Bhour, Indira Nagar, Miran Sahib and RS Pura is at verge of risk as base sheets of the iron bridge are damaged, rusted,



dilapidated and tattered at multiple places and people are facing hurdle in crossing damaged bridge but due to non-option to reach their destination they cross the

bridge at the risk of life and property as it is only approaching point over Balol Nallah. Protecting iron guards on both ends of the bridge are already dam-

aged / lifted by the operators of Tractor Trolleys for the reason best known to them. One side government promoting tourism therefore, constructed Bagh-E-Bhour to attract pilgrims but on the other hand Iron Bridge on Balol Nallah (near Shamsahaan Ghat Bhour Camp) of the rare side is totally damaged, posing ugly face and showing bad image before the tourists, base sheets of the bridge may fall any time and cause accident. It is reiterated that there is a dire need of repairing / construction of bridge at place. Through the medium of your esteemed newspaper attention of the authorities concerned is drawn for resolution of the genuine and basic demand / problem faced by the people of area as a welfare measure.

ADC Koteranka chairs Block Task Force meeting on U-WIN & Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI 5.0) Programme

J I NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, JUL 18 : In order to strengthen the routine vaccination process and expand immunization coverage to all children across Block Kandi, a meeting of Block Task Force on U-WIN & Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI 5.0) Campaign was held under the Chairmanship of the Additional Deputy Commissioner Koteranka, Sh.Surinder Mohan Sharma here today in Dakbhangalw koteranka to finalize the action plan to achieve full immunization coverage and digitalize the UIP on U-WIN Portal.

Among others the meeting was attended by Tehsildar Koteranka, CDPO (ICDS), Block Medical Officer, BDOs, Naib Tehsildar Budhal/Peeri-SHO Kandi, MOs, CHOs, All Zonal Medical Officers, and others concerned.

At the outset, Block Medical officer Kandi Dr. Vinod Bhat has given a detailed brief about the preparations, plans and objectives of U-WIN & IMI 5.0 through a power-point presentation. The presentation emphasized on selecting the right beneficiaries, areas, dropouts and missed out children under the immunization process besides different basic parameters to

be considered while conducting IMI 5.0 Head Count Survey. On the occasion, the ADC took a comprehensive feedback from Revenue, Health, ICDS, RDD and other concerned Departments with regard to the measures being taken towards Measles Rubella elimination and improving routine immunization in the Block as well as successful implementation of U-WIN Portal to digitalize the universal immunization programme.

The meeting was informed that first round of immunization under Mission Indradhanush 5.0 will commence from August 07, 2023 and continue till August 12, 2023 followed by the second round from September 11 to September 16, 2023 and third round from October 09 to October 14, 2023 to cover children aged 0 to 2 years and expecting mothers for immunization particularly covering high risk areas where nomads, labourers engaged in brick kilns and people living in slums will be taken care. Speaking on the occasion, the Additional Deputy Commissioner directed the officers and other stakeholders to work in synergy to ensure coverage of all dropouts under the Mission mode in a time bound manner. He asked the child development project Officer, ICDS to maintain close liaison with the Health

Department and mobilise grassroots functionaries including Aganwadi workers for the effective implementation of the Mission Indradhanush 5.0.

During the meeting, the ADC asked the all the Departments especially Health & ICDS to carry out Anganwari Centre visit and Panchayat wise head-count survey in the Block to identify and enlist beneficiaries so that left out children are registered for vaccination on U-Win (win over vaccination), the platform to be used to register and vaccinate every pregnant woman and register her delivery outcome and required immunizations. The ADC also stressed on vigorous IEC campaigns and effective communication for mass mobilization at appropriate platforms for successful implementation of Mission Indradhanush 5.0 to achieve the set targets, besides ensuring actionable monitoring feedback at all levels specific to U-WIN and IMI-5.0.

Pertinent to mention here that under Intensified Mission Indradhanush 5.0, vaccination against eight life-threatening diseases (diphtheria, whooping cough, Tetanus, Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib) causing pneumonia and meningitis, polio, tuberculosis, measles, Rubella and hepatitis B) is to be provided.

Vibodh Gupta inaugurates a mass Bhandara at Sabzi Mandi, Narwal

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 18 : A mass Bhandara and Pujja were organized at Sabzi Mandi, Narwal, Jammu today, bringing together a large number of people, including the shopkeepers of Sabzi Mandi to participate in the event. The Bhandara was inaugurated by Vibodh Gupta, BJP J&K general secretary and former MLC, in the presence of Surinder Singh Kala, President, Sabzi Mandi Association, Narwal, Jammu, Vishal Kohli, Vice President, Ankur Anand, General Secretary, Rajinder Kumar, Jr. Vice President, Anil Kumar, Secretary, Tarsem Gupta, Treasurer, Ashok Kumar, Media Secretary, and Madhav Gupta. During the event, Surinder Singh Kala, President of Sabzi Mandi Association, Narwal, Jammu, highlighted the various



welfare activities organised by the association for the betterment of the poor and marginalised sections of society. He also highlighted the issues faced by the shopkeepers of Sabzi Mandi, drawing attention to their challenges and concerns.

In his address, Vibodh Gupta commended the Sabzi Mandi Association, Narwal, Jammu, for their commendable efforts in

organizing various welfare activities for the welfare of the underprivileged. He emphasized the significance of Sabzi Mandi as a source of employment for numerous individuals, enabling them to earn their livelihoods. Additionally, he acknowledged the substantial contribution of Sabzi Mandi to the economy of Jammu.

Vibodh Gupta patiently listened to the problems and

issues raised by the shopkeepers and assured them that he would personally take up their concerns with the relevant authorities to ensure swift resolutions. He reiterated the unwavering support of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for the shopkeepers of the Sabzi Mandi, emphasising their commitment to standing shoulder-to-shoulder with them both now and in the future.

Sawan Mohatsav starts with Shrimad Bhagwat Katha in Mahamaya temple Jammu

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 18 : On the occasion of Sawan, a program was organized by Mahant Mohan Giri Ji Maharaj General Secretary Panch Dashnam Juna Akhara of Chan Rodeya Mahamaya Temple, Jammu. Bhagwat Saptah Katha was also organized by Shri Khemraj Shastri Ji Maharaj on this occasion.

Mahant Rajesh Bittu, Chairman, Religions Tourism and Heritage Culture Trust and Shri Radha Madhav were the chief guests on the occasion of this launch.

At the program Mahant Rajesh Bittu Ji said that like every year, this time also Shrimad Bhagwat Katha will be started in



Mahamaya temple, Jammu. He added that the story will continue for seven days and after that Jag Bhandara will be organised and hope that everyone will get the bless-

ing of the month. On this occasion Mahant Mohan Bhatti ji, Jangam Jasmer ji, Mahant Shri Deepak Giri ji, Nag Nath Ji, Devi Giri ji, Bharti Sharma,

BJP leader Hiranagar Vyas ji, Jaspal ji and many other people participated enthusiastically and pray for the peace, strength and health of people.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

New IT towers...

improving the learning outcome, use of technology, focus on Emotional quotient (EQ) and Intelligence Quotient (IQ) to make learning a joyful activity.

"School education department, school management and education planners, domain experts should work together for quality education. Our prime objective is to be at par with best schools in the country in terms of well-equipped laboratories and faculties," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor directed the school education department to introduce the reform in both Jammu and Kashmir divisions on a pilot basis in selected schools.

He also suggested for creation of a database of alumni from IIT and IIM, who would subsequently adopt students from different schools for handholding and guidance.

Sh Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary School Education Department; Sh Pankaj Chandra, Vice Chancellor, Ahmedabad University; Sh Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Sh Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner (Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department, Ms Prerna Puri, Commissioner Secretary, IT Department; Sh Sanjay Gaden, J&K IT Consultant and Sh Vish Narayanan, IIT BHU Alumni & Startup Investor attended the meeting and shared their valuable inputs for the formulation of strategies in their respective sectors.

Govt calls All-Party...

assembly polls this year and the Lok Sabha election next year, the session is expected to be stormy.

The Congress and other opposition parties are seeking to corner the government over the Manipur crisis besides the issues of price rise and alleged misuse of probe agencies.

The last session was also marred by frequent opposition protests.

Major success for...

five army men carrying Iftar items for villagers were fired upon and later vehicle set ablaze.

Officials added that the army recently foiled around half of dozen infiltration bids at Line of Control (LoC) but hunting and killing four Pakistani terrorists in the hinterland was seen as major success for security apparatus, particularly the Indian Army, which is restlessly pursuing Op Trinetra.

"Four foreign terrorists were eliminated this morning after a successful and coordinated search of the area was carried out, following very specific inputs," said Commander Sector 6 of Army's Rashtriya Rifles (RR) Brigadier M P Singh while addressing a press conference in Poonch. The commander was flanked by SSP Poonch Vinay Sharma.

The officer further said that during the search large quantities of arms and ammunition consisting of four AK series Rifles of Chinese mark and eight Magazines and 196 rounds.

Two 9 mm Pistols with Pakistan mark and three magazines and 24 rounds were also recovered.

"AKs found with the terrorists are with Chinese markings and Pistols are with Pakistan markings, which clearly indicate the involvement of our adversary in disturbing the peace and stability in Poonch-Rajouri sector," the Commander said.

He maintained that the presence of such heavily armed terrorists in hinterland is indicative of attempts to destabilise the region, and if not neutralised in time, these terrorists could have carried out major terrorist initiated incidents, in coming days.

The officer further added that relentless efforts by security forces in the past few months have started to give results.

The army commander also lauded the role of the civilian population of the area for providing valuable inputs to lead successful operations.

"This operation is a hallmark, of cooperation between all the intelligence agencies and specially the police, with the Indian Army, who spearheaded this operation," the commander said and adding, "I will be doing injustice, if I do not mention, the cooperation and support provided by the people in this endeavour, which speaks volumes of their belief, in our Nation."

About Operation

Indian Army has been continuing relentless operations, in the past three months as part of Op Trinetra. On 16 July, input was received about movement of suspicious persons in the general area of Sindhrah-Bachianwali and Maidana.

Accordingly, the area was cordoned. On 17 July specific intelligence regarding the presence of armed terrorists near the village of Sindhrah of Surankote Tehsil, District Poonch was received.

Based on this intelligence, Indian Army and Special Operations Group of Jammu Kashmir Police, further launched a specific cordon and search operation of this area. After establishing an effective cordon, the troops commenced their search and approached Village Sindhrah.

Four terrorists, who had taken shelter in the forest near the village, opened indiscriminate fire on the approaching troops. Their fire was promptly retaliated, and the terrorists were pinned down in the area. The cordon was then readjusted to deny any escape to the terrorists.

Special Forces were also inducted, to augment the operation. The terrorists making use of the terrain, forest foliage and inclement weather kept opening fire onto our troops, in a desperate attempt to break the cordon. In a display of excellent junior leadership and coordination, between Indian Army and Jammu Kashmir Police, own troops displayed superior tactical acumen in retaliating to the terrorists fire in a controlled manner, while pinning them down, in the given area. The intermittent fire between terrorists and their own troops continued till about 5.30 am.

However, the troops in cordon, continued to be on the highest alert, to prevent the trapped terrorist from escaping. In the morning, a detailed search of the area was carried out.

The search resulted in the recovery of large quantities of arms and ammunition consisting of four AK series Rifles with eight Magazines and 196 rounds. Two

9 mm Pistols with three magazines and 24 rounds were also recovered. The bodies of the four neutralised terrorists were also found in the area—(KNO)

SIA raids houses...

of searches in the minority killing case, conducted raids at 10 places – five in Anantnag, four in Shopian, and one in Kulgam – in south Kashmir in the wee hours, the officials said.

The 10 target premises also included residential houses of three active terrorists of Lashkar-e-Taiba namely Danish Hamid Thoker alias Khalid, and Ubaid Padder – both from Chakoora Shopian, and Abrar Farooq Wani of Heff Shirmal. These active terrorists have "relevance" in the under investigation case, the officials said.

The searches were conducted by 10 special teams of the SIA in pursuance of search warrants issued by the Special UAPA Court, Pulwama to collect evidence relevant to the ongoing investigation necessary to unearth conspiracy of minority killings in south Kashmir, they said.

While launching specific hunt for substantial evidences, the SIA searched various structures and house keeping records at target places and questioned many individuals for ascertaining circumstances and evidences in the case, they added.

The SIA has been narrowing down efforts to attain specifications and evidentiary data for the logical conclusion of the case for judicial determination, the officials said. (Agencies)

Embracing AI to bring...

government officer/official is unacceptable and should be viewed seriously.

He advised creating mass awareness about the services offered online particularly in rural areas. He asked for holding such informative sessions during morning assemblies in schools and workshops in higher educational institutions to train around 10 lakh youth in making good use of these online platforms.

On the occasion the Chief Secretary also launched a 'painting' and 'photo caption' competition as part of the 'Digital J&K' campaign. Both these competitions are aimed at creating awareness about the Digital Initiatives rolled out by government. The link for registration by interested persons would be available online on JKMyGov application to be reached out at the URL <http://jk.mygov.in>.

Talking about these initiatives the Commissioner Secretary, IT, Prerna Puri stated that it would offer an opportunity to people to showcase their talent and creativity while capturing the captivating essence of Digital J&K.

She revealed that the participants stand a chance to win prizes also. The top five winners of the selected best entries shall be awarded cash prizes and a certificate of appreciation by the Department. The prize amount for 1st Prize is 10,000, 5,000 for 2nd position holder, and 3,000 as an award for winner at 3rd position. In addition two Consolation Prizes of 2,000 each would also be given in each category, she informed.

The timeline of the Contest has been fixed for 24 days till 11th of August, 2023, as was learnt during this meeting.

Those who were present on this occasion includes Principal Secretary, Education; IT Consultant for UT; SIO, NIC besides other concerned officers of the Department.

Two labourers killed...

to hospital. Bodies of two labourers were recovered by a joint rescue team of police, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) after several hours of search, the official said while identifying one of the deceased as Anirudh Kumar, a resident of Madhya Pradesh.

The identity of the other deceased is being ascertained, the official said.

Earlier, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur Joginder Singh Jasrotia who inspected the scene said nine labourers were at the scene when the landslide struck.

Meanwhile, a three-member inquiry committee has been set up by ADC Jasrotia to ascertain the facts related to the incident.

He asked the committee members to submit a comprehensive report with specific recommendations for lapses, if any, within a week. (Agencies)

Lt Governor inaugurates...

forms but these are the keys that open all the locks of vast existence and tremendous possibilities of life," the Lt Governor said.

"Artists are real treasure and pride of the country, and the wealth they possess cannot be equated with any material wealth. In different art forms, one can have a glimpse of existence and realise the mystic path of life," he observed.

He acknowledged the immense contribution of the Artists in weaving many sects, customs, religion, culture, language, social system in the garland of unity and spreading its fragrance in every corner of the world.

"The biggest feature of our culture is its continuity. Many cultures, civilizations of world have either disappeared or with time they were weakened. However, despite all the challenges and attacks, the Indian culture is not only flourishing but its roots have become stronger," he said.

At the inaugural event, the Lt Governor shared the constant efforts being made to pass on the rich cultural legacy of India to the younger generation.

"Under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, Amrit Yuva Kalotsav reflects society's aspirations and motivates young generation to move forward in the journey of Amrit Kaal with a new vision, new dreams, determination and commitment to nation building," the Lt Governor said.

The biggest strength of our culture is unity in diversity. In order to strengthen this diversity, to bring states, cultures, languages, artists, youth closer to each other, Hon'ble Prime Minister had started the mission

of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat', he added.

"I am really proud that different states of the country have come closer, geographical distances have disappeared and people are taking interest in each other's food habits, culture, language and lifestyle. The food of different parts of the nation together makes a healthier, vibrant and incredible India," the Lt Governor said.

Addressing the gathering, the Lt Governor said, "there has to be a fine balance between science and music, only then the consciousness of the society will bloom, only then the nation will be able to progress".

The mind and consciousness of the society both are born out of the art. Consciousness is deeply embedded in poetry, music and different forms of art. No matter how developed a society is, no matter to what extent artificial intelligence is influencing our lives, it will be incomplete without art, the Lt Governor observed.

He said, the sensibility of the artists is absolutely pure, as pure as the mind of a small child.

When such artists rise up and start connecting hearts through programme like Amrit Yuva Kalotsav, then their generosity, their tolerance, their spirit of philanthropy, austerity, sacrifice and spiritual practice contributes in the rapid progress of the nation and no force of the world can stop the prosperity of such society, he added.

The Lt Governor also highlighted the endeavours of the UT Administration for the revival of old Crafts of Jammu Kashmir like Namda and the initiatives taken for the training of the artisans.

Dr Sandhya Purecha, Chairperson, Sangeet Natak Akademi shared the efforts of the Akademi to promote the art and culture of Jammu Kashmir. She informed that the Sangeet Natak Akademi will organise workshop on Bhand-Pather across the country.

Sh Sujit Singh, DIG; Sh Bharat Singh Manhas, Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages; Sh Raju Das, Secretary, Sangeet Natak Akademi; renowned artists, prominent citizens and youth were present on the occasion.

US secretary jennifer...

the USISTEF selects and supports promising joint U.S.-India technology innovation and entrepreneurial initiatives that are commercially viable and socially relevant. He said, these joint initiatives can originate from U.S. and Indian entities including StartUps, government, academic, or commercial endeavours, and any company thereof provided they focus on applied R&D, incorporate a business plan and proof of commercial concept, and have significant sustainable commercial potential.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the move comes in the wake of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to US, where he stressed upon a new chapter to bilateral comprehensive and global strategic partnership. The Minister said, he felt happy that both the Indian and US sides have positioned themselves quickly to take up the decision of the leaders to the implementation level.

Dr Jitendra Singh pointed out that the engagement has charted a Technology Partnership for the future with a new direction and a new energy in the AI (America - India) relation in the AI (Artificial Intelligence) era.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, among other technology-oriented matters of high relevance, it is heartening to note that President Biden and Prime Minister Modi had welcomed the launch of a \$2million grant program under the U.S.-India Science and Technology Endowment Fund (USISTEF) for the joint development and commercialization of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and quantum technologies, and encouraged public-private collaborations to develop high performance computing (HPC) facilities in India.

Dr Jitendra Singh informed that India has recently approved the National Quantum Mission (NQM) with an aim to seed, nurture and scale up scientific and industrial R&D and create a vibrant & innovative ecosystem in Quantum Technology (QT). Needless to say, that AI has the potential to address the world's most pressing challenges and presents tremendous opportunities for economic development, he added.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, investments in AI and quantum technology would lead to transformative advances in our everyday lives and greatly benefit our social well-being by impacting healthcare, agriculture, climate change and more. He welcomed the transformative potential of the Endowment fund.

The call will remain open till August 31, 2023 and will invite promising joint Indo-U.S. technology innovation and entrepreneurial proposals that are commercially viable and socially relevant. It will provide a significant boost to the domestic as well as the US priorities looking at various facets of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Opposition alliance to...

Kharge said a common secretariat will also be set up for campaign management in Delhi and specific committees will be formed for separate issues. He said a joint statement has been approved at the meeting.

Kharge also launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying he is now trying to bring together parties that had splintered which shows that "he is afraid of opposition parties".

"There are some differences between us but we have put that behind... We are together in the interest of the country," Kharge said. "We'll fight the 2024 Lok Sabha elections unitedly and succeed," he said.

In her remarks at the presser, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee while acknowledging all leaders present referred to Rahul Gandhi as "our favourite".

Referring to the name of the alliance adopted, Banerjee said, "BJP, can you challenge INDIA? We love our motherland, we are the patriotic people of the country, we are for farmers, Dalits, we are for country, for the world." The only job the regime at the Centre does today is to buy and sell governments, she alleged.

"INDIA will win, our country will win and BJP will lose," Banerjee said.

Top leaders of 26 opposition parties held extensive deliberations in Bengaluru for finalising a united strategy to take on the ruling NDA in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. (Agencies)

NC-Congress announce**pre-poll alliance in Kargil Hill Council elections**

J&K NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 18

In a major political development in Ladakh, National Conference and Congress on Tuesday announced a pre-poll alliance for the upcoming Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Kargil elections likely to be held in August-September.

As per news agency, addressing a joint press conference, senior NC and Congress leaders of Kargil district today announced a pre-poll pact for the Hill Council elections. "The seat-sharing arrangement will be worked out after consulting senior leaders of both the parties in constituencies," said Asgar Karballe, working president of Ladakh unit of Congress.

Karballe said that both the parties have decided against supporting any independent candidate and will field candidates only on their party tickets.

"We don't want that independent candidates should become a tool for BJP," he said, adding that pre-poll arrangement would convert into post-poll alliance and there would be a 50:50 power sharing formula between both the parties in the council. Speaking on the occasion, senior NC leader Qamar Ali Akhoun said both the parties have decided against issuing statement against each other.

"After lot of consultations, we have joined hands to fight the polls," he said.

The election schedule for Kargil Hill Council elections is likely to be announced in the first week of August while voting for all 26 seats is expected to be held in the first week of September. The Hill Council has 30 seats including four nominated seats—(KNO)

Rotational transfer of officers on sensitive posts

J&K NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 18

In an exercise aimed at ensuring rotational transfer of officers working on sensitive posts, the Jammu & Kashmir Government has asked the departments to submit details of officers working on such posts during the last three years for submitting them to the Union Home Ministry.

In a communicate, accessed by news agency, the General Administration Department (GAD) has written to the administrative secretaries to submit complete details of all employees posted/ deputed/ attached who are occupying sensitive posts beyond three years so that the same is furnished to the Government of India for further action in the matter.

As per desired format, the government has to submit details of all such officers along with its remarks on them. The details are being collected to identify sensitive posts and ensure the rotation of officers manning them within the prescribed time limit.

"Identification of sensitive posts and rotational transfer of officials holding sensitive posts is one of the tools for effective implementation of preventive vigilance mechanism," the Central Vigilance Commission had said in its 2022 order.

The rotational transfers are being done to avoid developing vested interest by staffers holding sensitive posts. The overstay and continuous posting afford scope for indulging in corrupt practices, developing vested interest etc, which may not be in the interest of a department—(KNO)

Reaping peace dividends: Homestay facilities boost rural economy in Kashmir's border villages

J&K NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, JUL 18

With tourism activities picking up pace in remote villages along Line of Control, homestay facilities have increased to host visitors in absence of hotels.

"150 homestay facilities are offering their services to tourists in border areas like Teethwal and Keran," an official said.

In February 2021, renewed ceasefire agreement between the armies of India and Pakistan has transformed remote and out of bound villages and mountains into tourism destinations.

Talking to the news agency, a senior officer in Kupwara said that 70 homestay facilities have been registered with the authorities and they offer food and accommodation to tourists.

"All their details and tourist arrival figures are available with the authorities. They also maintain the arrival details of tourists," the official said.

The official said that homestays are pivotal in the promotion of tourism activities in the district. "There is no infrastructure other than what locals have already constructed. Major hotels and restaurants aren't there in any part of the remote areas," the official stated.

The official also said that tourism-related activities have begun just a couple of years ago only.

"No big night accommodation is available there. Tourism has just begun and almost all of these places were out of bounds for the general public other than locals. Homestays are proving to be a game changer in attracting more tourists," the official said while assuring more facilities will be enhanced with time.

Another senior official said that although 70 homestays are registered with the concerned authorities, their number has increased. "As per our reports, about 150 homestay facilities as of now are offering their services to tourists across the Kupwara district."

The officials said these facilities are in Keran, Karnah (Teethwal), Machil and the rest of the tourist destinations in the district. The official said that people are now able to eke out their livelihood from the tourism activities. Locals are happy that tourism activities are picking up saying it has helped them earn their livelihood.

Azhar Peer, a local associated with tourism activities said two years ago it was not possible to even think of suggesting a tourist to visit border areas. "But now, last year people in the border areas have opened their homes for homestays which make the job much easier. We are now inviting tourists to visit the border areas of Kupwara," he said.

Shiv Sena Hindustan protest lack of drainage facility at Chak Zafar, Marh

Submits memorandum of demands to SDM Marh



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 18 : Shiv Sena Hindustan activists led by its J&K President P I Rajesh Kesri today held strong protest against the government at village Chak Zafar, Block Marh and submitted memorandum of demands to SDM Marh.

The residents of Ward No. 3 including Mohan Kumar, Parshotam Lal,

Sewa Ram, Roshan Lal, Santu Ram, Sunita Devi, Geeta Devi, Tulsi Devi besides others were present who disclosed that the streets of Ward No. 3 are being constructed but there is not even a single drain, the water from the houses comes out into the streets, causing trouble to the commuters. Most of the residents have dug out small pits outside their houses

wherein waste water gets filled in those pits. Speaking on the occasion, Kesri said that with the summer season making way for monsoons, in a few days if people will push their waste water into these pits, and rainwater will stagnate around homes. Even if a small quantity of water, as little as 40 ml, is left stagnating in anything or placed inside and outside homes, it

can serve as perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes which transmit virus causing dengue, malaria, and other life-threatening vector-borne diseases. Depending on the severity of dengue, treatment in private hospitals can run into lakhs. Kesri further said that proper initiatives need to be implemented for better safety regarding mosquitoes, as well as campaigning for making the communities aware of their surroundings and breeding spaces can be essential as well. Resources to tackle these pests need to be enhanced and effective in order to limit the scope of them reproducing. He demanded Govt to direct concerned authorities to construct drainage facility as soon as possible before arrival of monsoon to avoid any epidemic. Prominent among those present on the occasion include Balveer Kumar, Captain Gara Ram, Brijesh Kumar, Darshana Devi, Rajni Devi, Jyoti Devi, Balwant Fauji besides others.

Notorious criminal booked under PSA : Reasi Police

J I NEWS SERVICE

REASI, JUL 18 : Working on multipronged strategy to deal with habitual criminals and those indulging in heinous crimes in recurring manner, district police Reasi booked a notorious criminal of Reasi under Public Safety Act (PSA) and lodged him in Kot Bahawal Jail Jammu.

Vishal Sharma alias "Lakhan" Age - 32 years S/O Raj Kumar R/O Nai Basti Tehsil & District Reasi is a criminal of desperate character and habitual of indulging in acts of violence

such as attempt to murder, Crime against women, Cheating, theft, Stealing Government property and attacking public servant lawfully discharging his duty. The detail of cases is as under FIR No. 02/2012 U/S 363/376/120-B IPC, FIR No. 75/2023 U/S P/S Reasi, FIR No. 18/2023 U/S 420/467/468/471 IPC of P/S Mahore, FIR No. 146/2023 U/S 379 IPC & PDP Act, FIR 147/2023 U/S 353/332/341/427/34 IPC. Vishal Sharma alias "Lakhan" along his accom-

plishes often threatened to the people of area. Moreover in view of his continuous involvement in criminal activities and he is also found motivating local youth to indulge in similar activities and therefore it became imperative to book him under stringent law to save younger generation from indulging in crimes of serious nature and preventing him to commit serious and heinous crime in future also. On the directions of Amit Gupta-JKPS Senior Superintendent of Police Reasi his dossiers for Public

Safety Act was framed and sent for necessary detention order to District Magistrate who formally issued the order of his detention under PSA. On the orders of Babila Rakwal District Magistrate, Reasi, Vishal Sharma alias "Lakhan" was arrested and lodged in kot Bahawal Jail Jammu under Public Safety Act. SSP Reasi while sharing the details conveyed that Reasi Police is committed towards the safety of the public and to eradicate notorious criminal from the society.

9yrs of Modi Govt are unmatched: Keshav Chopra

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 18 : On its ongoing Mahajansampark Abhiyaan of public outreach campaign today BJP Talab Tillo Mandal President Keshav Chopra accompanied BJP J&K Secretary Ayodhya Gupta, BJP J&K Health and Medical Cell Convener Puneet Mahajan and other leaders started door to door campaign at booth No 81 of ward No 30.

The BJP Leaders went around many houses interacted with locals given them Pamphlets, books, having information about the achievements of 9yrs of Modi government. While interacting with people Keshav Chopra said that Narendra Modi government during its 9yrs tenure has done commendable



work, many big projects of developments have been started across J&K, modi gov't has written new chapters of development which are totally unmatched. Ayodhya Gupta and Puneet Mahajan apprised the locals

about various achievements of Modi Govt, they also asked the people to read the material and also educate the others about what works done by modi gov't during its 9yrs tenure. Mandal General Secretary

Munish Gupta, Mandal Secretaries Bhupinder Gupta, Kusum Gupta, Booth President Ajay Gupta, Sanjeev Gupta, Manoj Tandon, Ritesh Peer, Sahil Verma and others were also participated.

Opposition will not succeed in toppling Modi Govt: Purnima Sharma

Modi will become PM for 3rd consecutive term in 2024

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 18 : Adv Purnima Sharma, Spokesperson of Bharatiya Janata Party, J&K and former deputy Mayor Jammu, today launched a scathing attack on the joint Opposition meeting convened by the Congress Party in Bengaluru, labeling the gathering as a gang of looters.

In a statement issued here today, the senior BJP leader termed the alliance led by the Congress Party as nothing more than an assembly of corrupt individuals with the sole intention of removing PM Modi from power. The "Mahagathbandhan" grand alliance lacks any genuine bond and is merely a desperate attempt by a collective group of looters to evade legal consequences of their misdeeds, she said. "The looters and corrupt people have gathered in Bengaluru with the



sole purpose of defeating Narendra Modi in the 2024 General Elections. Their fear is evident; they understand that if PM Modi is re-elected, justice will be served and they will be held accountable for their misdeeds," she added. The BJP Spokesperson emphasized that the so-called "gang of looters" has extended its reach from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, indicating

the wide range of individuals involved in the opposition meeting. However, she affirmed that their collective efforts to bring down PM Modi and his government would be in vain. "There is no genuine bonding in this Mahagathbandhan," she stated, adding "Their sole purpose of coming together is to topple Modi Govt, which, I'm confident to say, will not happen this time." Purima asserted that the BJP remains steadfast in its commitment to the people of India, focusing on the progress and development initiated under PM Modi's leadership. She reiterated BJP's confidence in the upcoming elections and its belief in the unwavering support of people of the country. She emphasized that the BJP-led NDA will form government again in 2024 and Narendra Modi will become Prime Minister for a third consecutive term.

iCreate awards 6 student teams from IIT Jammu's Invention Factory

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 18 : iCreate (International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technology), India's leading innovation-based start-up incubator, announced special Spark-Up Grants to 6 teams from IIT Jammu's first edition of "Invention Factory". Multiple teams from various IITs and NITs across India had taken part in the programme contest. Spark-Up Grant of Rs. 50,000/- was awarded to each team by Avinash Puneekar, CEO, iCreate

iCreate's Spark-Up Grants provide the capital needed to further develop the ideas. iCreate's support can extend beyond financial aid, as the start-up incubator also provides hands-on mentorship and incubation assistance to help start-ups go past the early stages.

Congratulating the winners, Avinash Puneekar, CEO, iCreate said, "We are thrilled to be a part of IIT Jammu's Invention Factory programme and extend our support to the participants. IIT Jammu has been on a path to accelerate innovation and



entrepreneurship in the J&K region. At iCreate, we believe that these have the power to drive positive and lasting change. We are excited at the opportunity to work together to help create a vibrant entrepreneurship ecosystem in the union territory. By nurturing these exceptional talents, we aim to catalyse their journey towards becoming successful start-ups contributing to India's vibrant growth. By merging our expertise and resources, together with IIT Jammu, we can unlock the limitless potential of our brilliant minds and propel transformative ideas that could help shape the future". IIT Jammu's "Invention Factory" aims to support

and coach inspired students from all IITs and NITs to shape their innovative ideas to patentable inventions.

The participants go through an intensive 6-week programme starting from ideation to designing solutions, building prototypes and even receive guidance to write provisional patents. In the inaugural edition this year, 10 teams of 2 students each were shortlisted for the intensive 6-week stint at the IIT Jammu campus. The Spark-Up awardees had innovations in diverse fields ranging from breathable cast maker, valved asthma inhaler, milk boil-over inhibitor to a dry bath for dogs.

Om Parkash is new President of Cycling Association of J&K



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 18: Prof. (Dr) Ashutosh Sharma Sr. Vice-President of Cycling Association of J&K has filed a case in the Hon'ble Court of 3rd Civil Subordinate Judge (Special Excise Mobile Magistrate Jammu) who vide order dated 15.07.2023 observed that it is settled that the election process once initiated cannot be stayed. As there was

no stay order by any Hon'ble Court, the election of the Association for 16.07.2023 was held at Aman Singh Club Jammu at 05.00 Pm. In the election meeting, Om Parkash a veteran Cyclist from grass root level is the new president of Cycling Association of J&K. He was elected unanimously as per result declared by the Returning Officer in the presence of 19 Members &

two observers from J&K U Olympic Association Sh. Kuldeep Singh Jammu and Prof. Harwant Singh Chib. Other office bearers who were declared elected by the Returning Officer in accordance with the constitution are Sr. Vice-President Ravi Salgotra, Vice-Presidents, Mushtaq Ahmed (Srinagar), Ajay Sharma (Jammu), Hon'y. General Secretary Dr. Vikesh Kumar, Joint

Secretaries, Dr. Mohd. Akbar Khan (Srinagar), Sahil Raina (Jammu), Hon'y Treasurer S. Sarabjit Singh. Agenda items were taken one by one & passed by the house unanimously include Minutes of last Annual General Body Meeting were passed. Report of activities of Association was adopted.

Accounts of the Association duly audited by the Chartered Accountants from 2016 to the end of the March, 2022 were also passed. It was announced by the newly elected president that the other office bearers and Executive members will be nominated by a 05 members Committee of Senior members. The constitution will be amended and a post of Chairman, Chief Executive Officer, Associate Vice-Presidents and Associate Secretary will be created. The Association will work under the patronage of Prof. (Dr) Ashutosh Sharma, Sh. Zamir Thakur and S. H.S Gill.

Rajesh Gupta reiterates demand for statehood, assembly polls

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 18 : National Democratic Party Indian (NDPI) on Tuesday observed that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are enduring immense agonies on account of an unnecessary delay in their political empowerment.

Addressing a workers meeting at the Party office Janipur NDPI Chief Rajesh Gupta said that there is no substitute to an elected government and a bureaucratic regime can never address the aspirations of the people. "People give vent to their day-to-day based sufferings when they meet us. I think the sense of accountability is missing in our bureaucratic set-up that it happens when you have no elected government

in place," he said, while underlining the need for early restoration of the Statehood.

NDPI leader said that NDPI has been repeatedly urging the government of India not to delay the restoration of statehood to J&K. "And we are of the firm belief that the Statehood alone can prove panacea to the people's sufferings," he remarked. "In this summer season the authorities have not been able to ensure 24x7 electricity to the people which shows their inability to work without an elected government," he said. He demanded 24x7 electricity for Jammutes in the summer season. "NDPI wants resolution to the problems faced by the people at large. It has become imperative at this point of time that the right to elect an

accountable government is given back to the people," Gupta said. He further said that NDPI adheres to the principle of 'politics of truth' which demands sincerity and efforts at grass root levels. NDPI president said his party will not allow non-locals to settle in the Union Territory. He appealed to people to maintain peace and promised to reverse all "anti-people" decisions of the administration once his party comes to power. "We will not allow the non-locals to settle in Jammu and Kashmir. The land in J&K belongs to the people of the erstwhile state of J&K," Gupta said. Others who addressed the meeting were Umesh Manhas, S. Kuljeet Singh, Tilakraj, Sandeep Anand, Rajiv Luthra and others.

Monsoon Must-Haves from Forest Essentials

Enjoy Delightful Monsoons and Good Skin Days With the best of skincare from Forest Essentials

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 18 : Monsoons bring with themselves humidity and a plethora of skin concerns such as acne & clogged pores that are a result of excess oil production, hormonal changes, medication, diet, excessive stress and environmental pollutants. Implying one to create a skincare regimen that is specifically curated to target blemishes while stimulating the renewal of new cells, Forest Essentials

presents a multi-step transformational ritual: a special selection of skincare products infused with superior Ayurvedic herbs that help address the concerns of oily skin.

Each ingredient in these products addresses either a specific root cause or a side effect associated with acne, thereby combatting & preventing it holistically. Together these Ayurvedic herb-enriched, clarifying products regulate sebum production, balance excess oil, and alleviate inflammation

for blemish-free, matte skin.

The urban is a skin-care must-have that has stood the test of time - an age-old, at-home beauty ritual.

The tradition dates back to ancient texts in India having found prominence during the Vedic Age when it was prescribed by Vaidyas or physicians for protection, feeding and beautification of the skin.

Multani Mitti, or Fuller's Earth, has been synonymous with clear skin for eons - both in Indian cultures and internationally. First introduced to us in our grandmother's nuskhas, it effectively treats acne and regulates oil production.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

Too early but race begins for LS polls

The race for Lok Sabha elections to be held early next year has begun. Both the ruling BJP-led NDA government at the Centre and opposition parties have started devising their strategies to ensure better performance and win elections which are expected to witness a lot of enthusiasm and political mudslinging. On Tuesday, the opposition parties decided that their alliance that would take on the ruling NDA in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections would be called Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) and an 11-member committee would be set up for coordination. They claim that their fight is against the ideology of the BJP and their thinking, they are attacking the country, unemployment is rampant, and the country's wealth is being taken away from millions and handed over in the hands of a few. In return, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a frontal attack on the opposition parties saying an alliance formed for the compulsion of power, based on dynastic politics and keeping in mind casteism and regionalism is very harmful to the country. Another debate is on the number game. Thirty-eight parties are part of the NDA and as their leaders attended the meeting where they were welcomed with flower bouquets and stoles amid dhol beats. During the opposition parties' meeting, representatives of a total of 26 parties remained present. What is interesting is that the leaders of two sides minced no words to take on their opponents. Prime Minister Modi said Congress used coalitions in the 1990s to destabilise the country by forming governments and then pulling them down. On the other hand, he said, the NDA was formed to bring stability and not to topple any government. He also coined a new full form of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA)-New India, Developed Nation, Aspiration of People of India to counter the opposition alliance's name INDIA-Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance. With less than a year left for General elections, the country's political arena is surely going to witness heated but nasty exchange of words between opposition parties to woo electorates and win elections. The BJP may be facing some anti-incumbency factor but it is not going to be an easy task for opposition parties as well to uproot the BJP's regime at the Centre and form their own government. It is also very difficult for the opposition parties to bring different ideologies and ideas on a single platform and keep the flock together, not only before the polls but after the elections as well. Going by the present scenario, the opposition parties' challenges are quite bigger than the BJP which will make all possible efforts to seek a mandate in the name of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the third consecutive time. At this juncture, it will be premature to assume which direction the pendulum will move.

REALITY CHECK FOR IITs IN THE EDUCATIONAL FRAMEWORK

Today's India has a lot to offer. The number of IITians leaving the country is on the decline; salaries have

KA PADMANABHAN

ANY news that puts the IITs in the dock becomes 'noisy' and the latest seems to be the extreme popularity of the computer science programme of IIT-Bombay. According to some, there could be a 'revolution' in the event of the programme being discontinued for a year.

A common charge is that basic research in the IITs and other Indian universities is not done by the IITs, but by those who pass out of other institutions. Evidently, research cannot be the focus of undergraduate (UG) education. IITs never claimed that through the JEE, they identify youngsters with great creativity. One of the best definitions of the scope of the JEE could be: "Where the examiners pose long and tough questions so that no one can finish the exam within the time allotted and a fair ranking of the students becomes possible. It is an eliminatory exam - the only way open while dealing with large numbers."

Some studies have shown that there is no correlation between the students' all-India ranks in the JEE and their performance in their careers. In addition, there are late developers. That is why GATE enables science graduates and late developers to move from science to engineering, if they so desire.

Due to brain drain, with the country providing limited opportunities, many IITians left India. Then, people asked why the Government of India should subsidise IIT education. The professors were criticised for being too theoretical. But the IITs braved the storm. Suddenly, the economy got liberalised.

The simultaneous blossoming of the IT industry in India and the emergence of many former IITians in the US as CEOs, CIOs and multimillionaires elevated the IITs in the eyes of the public and the IIT professors became 'the creators of multimillionaires'. This triumph of IT also allowed foreign companies to look at Indian manufacturing and other industrial sectors favourably. This second revolution has just begun.

Cracking the JEE became a life-or-death obsession. The media kept alive this madness. There are many descriptions of IITs - 'human stud farms' that manufacture the creme de la creme of Indian intelligentsia; 'producers of cyber/techno coolies'; 'similar to the B-grade degree colleges of the USA'; 'the producers of



the only brand name of post-Independence India'. An article titled 'The whiz kids of the IITs' in US magazine Businessweek said the impact of the IITs on the US economy was more than that of Harvard, Yale, MIT and some other institutions put together.

In 1999, consultancy company McKinsey presented a report to then Prime Minister AB Vajpayee, which talked of a shortage of a million software engineers worldwide and the opportunities for India. The Central Government took over the Regional Engineering Colleges, renamed them National Institutes of Technology, revamped the syllabi, and modernised the teaching. To satisfy regional aspirations, today there are 23 IITs all over India, with only five or six of the new IITs reaching anywhere near the old five in academic standards. A shortage of high-quality faculty is a major challenge.

Due to paucity of funds, the state governments allowed setting up of private engineering colleges. The conditions laid down by the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) were input-driven, like the size of classrooms and staff-student ratio. No attention was paid to the outcomes. The difference in the quality of these institutions and the IITs is huge. This has led to the creation of a thriving coaching

industry. A former COO of Tata Group company Titan said a few years ago that their franchise for an outlet in a major city was won by the owner of a coaching institute against stiff competition from moneybags. Such is the economic clout of the coaching institutes. In contrast, the emergence of some high-quality private educational institutions - such as VIT, SRM, Sastra, Jio, Shiv Nadar University, etc - has given rise to the hope that what the governments were unable to resolve may be remedied by the market forces. The grip of the coaching institutes will likely weaken only when there are many institutions of high quality.

I am hopeful about 'staying back to restore India to her rightful intellectual prowess'. Today's India has a lot to offer. The number of IITians leaving India is on the decline. Salaries across the board have risen and many Indian companies are internationally competitive. When I started my career in 1972, India's GDP (gross domestic product) was \$70 billion. Today, it is \$3.5 trillion and India is the world's fifth-largest economy. In a few years, it is expected to become the world's third-largest economy. Being a part of this phenomenal growth is a thrilling journey. Can such an experience be compensated for by a few more dollars? The answer will depend on an individual's values.

Caste-based reservations have their pros and cons. Several studies have revealed that diversity in industrial units leads to greater creativity. By keeping out the 'creamy layer' and ensuring strict enforcement of academic criteria within the norms laid down by the government, the IITs are enforcing academic standards.

The popularity of disciplines is market-dependent. In the 1950s, civil engineering was the most popular (period of hydroelectric projects, fertiliser, steel plants, etc). During 1970-1990, mechanical, electrical, chemical and metallurgical engineering ruled the roost so that the industries could be fed with skilled manpower. Then the era of computer science and engineering commenced and continues.

To prevent the start of a revolution on the closure of the computer science programme at IIT-Bombay for a year, the IITs cannot do "loosey" teaching. But the reader may rest assured that in the unlikely event of the computer science programme shutting down for a year, the parents and students could first curse IIT-Bombay and then the government. Soon they will sit together and choose 50 disciplines from the courses on offer, frequently consulting their friends in the IITs, and trudge towards the counselling halls on the allotted day!

Curbing profligacy in materiel acquisitions a challenge

The allocation pertaining to equipment spares, components and replacements has been on the rise.

RAHUL BEDI

THE multiplicity of platforms employed by India's military poses a massive, hugely expensive and complex logistical challenge, one that increasingly consumes the armed forces' annual revenue budget, which has consequently grown steadily in recent years. Unlike other analogous militaries that have greater homogeneity and commonality in their assets, India's three services remain profligate in their choice of haphazardly acquired assorted weaponry, with scant effort at standardising equipment to effect savings on sustainment. Instead, all their diverse gear not only triggers mounting revenue allocations each year but, worse, lead to platform cannibalisation in which components or sub-assemblies are removed from an active, in-service resource and installed on another, rendering the former inoperative. Furthermore, this burgeoning equipment array also mandated the training and sustaining of a vast number of technicians and mechanics to service and maintain it for its average operational lifespan of around 25-30 years. A



cross-section of service personnel, veterans and defence analysts concurred that if the military streamlined its kit profile, its yearly capital budget allocation, which averaged around 40 per cent of the overall defence outlay, could see an upsurge, augmenting thereby force modernisation and enhancing operational efficiency. From 2021-22 to 2023-24, the 'stores' allocation that pertains to equipment spares, components and replacements for the Army has risen from Rs 20,383 crore to Rs 23,965 crore, for the Navy from Rs 6,054 crore to Rs

9,221 crore and for the Indian Air Force (IAF) from Rs 9,679 crore to a whopping Rs 17,200 crore. The IAF, for instance, operates seven fighter types, including Russian Sukhoi Su-30 MKIs, upgraded MiG-29M and MiG-21 Bisons, French Rafales and Mirage-2000Hs, Anglo-French SEPECAT Jaguars and the indigenous Tejas Light Combat Aircraft. It also plans to acquire 114 multi-role fighter aircraft (MRFAs), which could add yet another combat-type aircraft to the IAF's existing portfolio. Similarly, the IAF's six trans-

ports comprise Russian and Ukrainian Ilyushin Il-76s and Antonov An-32s, C-17s and C-130J-30s from the US, legacy Avro HS-748s from the UK and licence-built Dornier 228s from Germany. Moreover, the induction of 56 Airbus Defence and Space C-295MW transporters, of which 16 are being acquired in flyaway condition and the remaining 40 licence-built locally, was imminent, making it the IAF's seventh such aircraft. The forces' helicopter fleet incorporates seven platforms including AH-64 Apaches and

CH-47 Chinooks (US), Mil Mi-17 variants and Mi-24s (Russia), indigenous Dhruv advanced light helicopter variants and licence-made French-origin Aerospatiale Alouette IIIs (Cheetahs) and Aerospatiale SA-315B (Cheetahs). The Army's jumbled equipment buys are set to render it possibly the world's only army which could, over the next decade, field five main battle tank (MBT) types simultaneously. At present, it operates Russian I72M1 'Ajeyas and 190S 'Bhishmas, alongside indigenous Arjun Mki/1As, but is also on track to develop Zorawar, a 25-tonne tank, in addition to procuring 1,270 Future Ready Combat Vehicles by 2030. The US, in comparison, operates M1 Abrams variant MBTs, while Israel fields the Merkava, Britain the Challenger 2, Canada the Leopard 2A6M, Germany the Leopard and France the Leclercs. Conversely, the Russian army has T72, T80 and T90 MBTs - all with a high degree of commonality - and has only recently begun inducting the T-14 Armata, predicated on a multifaceted Universal Combat Platform concept.

Additionally, the Army's seven artillery guns include M77s (UK/US), FH-77Bs (Sweden), local Dhanush howitzers, Soviet-era 130mm M46s and the indigenously upgraded Sharang M-46s, domestically sourced 105mm field guns and more recently the K-9 Vajra self-propelled howitzers, built jointly in India by Larsen & Toubro and South Korea's Hanwha Defence. The Army is also in the process of acquiring the domestically designed and manufactured 155mm/52 calibre Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System, besides evaluating the Israeli Autonomous Towed Howitzers Ordnance System for procurement. The Army also deploys at least six helicopter types such as Apaches and Dhruv variants, including Prachand and Rudra attack models, indigenously designed light utility helicopters, Cheetahs and Cheetaks. Its assault rifle profile encompasses TAR-21s and Galils from Israel, SIG716s from the US, AK-47s and AK-203s from Russia alongside the local Indian Small Arms System, in addition to six types of sniper rifles from Russia, Israel, Germany, Italy/Finland and the US. Four anti-material rifle types,

at least five different kinds of machine guns/pistols from Belgium, Germany, Israel, Switzerland and the US and three models of air defence guns from Soviet Union/Russia and Sweden, among other varied equipment, all of which need servicing and back-up. The Navy, relatively frugal among India's three services in its equipment profile, deploys two diverse aircraft carriers and three dissimilar conventional diesel-electric submarines or SSKs: Russian Type 877 EKM Kilo-class boats, German HDW Type 209/1500 Shishumar-class 55Ks and French Kalvarti-class (Scorpene) platforms. Remarkably, the Navy is evaluating yet another SSK - to be sourced locally under transfer of technology to a local shortlisted shipyard from Germany or Spain - which is scheduled to join service in the early 2030s, making it the fourth submarine model in the forces' growing platform stock list. The fundamental flaws in defence planning, despite the embarrassment of riches of high-powered oversight decision-making bodies created to sustain India's higher strategic and military realms.



VARUN DHAWAN ON BAWAAL'S OTT RELEASE: 'DON'T THINK A BAD FILM CAN SURVIVE ON STREAMING'

Varun Dhawan has opened up on the makers' decision to skip the theatrical release of his next film Bawaal, and premiere it directly on streaming. Bawaal, directed by Nitesh Tiwari and also starring Janhvi Kapoor, will be released on Prime Video on July 21.

Bawaal is not Varun's first direct-to-OTT release. Back in 2020, Coolie No 1, the comedy directed by his father David Dhawan, starring him and Sara Ali Khan in lead roles, also skipped the theatrical release and debuted directly on Prime Video India. While that was the first year of the pandemic, it's no longer as major a concern now. Varun is also gearing up for his series debut, the Indian instalment of

Citadel, directed by Raj & DK and co-starring Samantha Ruth Prabhu, that will also drop on Prime Video India.

Varun on streaming
In a new interview to Variety, Varun said, "You have to make sure that you have a good film because here (streaming), I don't think a bad film can survive, to be honest. You have to be a very good film to thrive, because it's so democratic. The way things function here the word-of-mouth plays in even more."

Varun further added how the OTT release would help Bawaal. "The whole idea was to pitch this film on a global level, our producer Sajid Nadiadwala had that vision. Him releasing it himself, I



don't think he thought he can do that. But with partners like Amazon, it became much easier," he said in the same interview.

About Bawaal
Talking about the film, director Nitesh Tiwari said in a statement, "Great love stories deserve to be experienced and they

Rani on new directors: 'They have contributed to shaping my career'

Over a career spanning two decades, actress Rani Mukerji has impressed audiences with her acting prowess. She credits her powerful performances to new directors for shaping her career and empowering her to have the love she has received in her journey in cinema.

Rani said: "If you look at the list of new directors that I have collaborated with, you will see how they have contributed in shaping my career, my craft and empowered me to get the love that I have got all through my journey in cinema." Rani believes that all the newcomers she has worked with throughout her journey in Bollywood, have one thing in common. They are always more hungry to disrupt because they are looking to make the biggest mark on the industry with their first few films. "I have always been excited by new directors because I have believed that they are always hungrier to disrupt and I love disruption. It is definitely the reason why I have worked with so many new or first-time directors and I consider myself to be fortunate to have found them and exchanged creative energies with them," she said.

She shared: "My collaboration with first-time directors started since the beginning of my career with Karan Johar on Kuch Kuch Hota Hai (KKHH) who gave the youth of the country relevancy at that time. It was amazing to creatively collaborate with him because he had such an amazing story to tell and how masterfully he made KKHH."

Rani further added: "I have worked with Shaad Ali on his first film Saathiyaa and he too gave me a gem of a film that I'm proud of in my filmography! Gopi Puthran is another outstanding director who directed the second instalment of Mardaan! He has created a fiercely independent and courageous woman on screen and I respect him for doing so because cinema can do a lot to represent women well!"

"From stalwarts like Pradeep Sarkar, who directed me in Laaga Chunari Mein Daag, to visionaries like Kamal Hassan sir with whom I collaborated for Hey Ram, or forward-thinking minds like Siddharth Anand in Ta Ra Um Pum or Raj Kumar Gupta in No One Killed Jessica or Reema Kagti in Talaash, the sensitive storytellers like

Alia Bhatt's look in new Heart of Stone poster grabs attention: Where does her hair end and fur begins?

Ever since it was announced that Alia Bhatt is making her Hollywood debut with Heart of Stone, fans in India have been waiting to see what kind of a role she is playing in the Gal Gadot-starrer. On Tuesday, Netflix India shared a new image of Alia from the film, giving a glimpse of her look. Also read: Alia Bhatt addresses reactions to her 'short screen time' in Heart of Stone trailer.

Alia Bhatt's Heart of Stone look
Alia was seen in a fur jacket in the picture. She looked straight into the camera as she posed. The accompanying caption read, "Alia Bhatt is coming to back our



hearts (heart with arrow emoji) and the Heart (man on laptop emoji). Catch all the thrills and chills from Heart of Stone on August 11, only on Netflix (heart eyes emoji). Heart of Stone...

Reacting to the poster, a fan joked about Alia's look, writing, "Where does original hair end and fur begins?" One said, "The look is nice, giving fierce vibes." Another one said, "Winning hearts and how." A fan also said, "Cannot wait to see Alia in this thrilling film."

Alia on Heart of Stone
Heart of Stone is set to premiere on August 11 on Netflix. It is directed by Tom Harper from a script penned by Greg Rucka and Allison Schroeder.

"It was a very special film in the first place to be a part of. I shot it at a very exciting time when I was feeling like it was a

nice time for me to break into another language, into Hollywood as you say. But it was a lot of fun and I met a lot of interesting people," Alia told Mid-day about her work experience on the film.

Her upcoming projects
Apart from Heart of Stone, Alia is gearing up for the release of her upcoming film Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani. The Karan Johar directorial sees her reunite with Gully Boy co-star Ranveer Singh.

The film also stars Shabana Azmi, Dharmendra and Jaya Bachchan, and is slated to be released in cinemas on July 28.

Did Kangana Ranaut call Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt's marriage fake in wild new posts: 'He begged me to meet him'

Actor Kangana Ranaut has criticised a 'farsi (fake) couple spreading fake news about movie announcements'. She also claimed that on a recent family trip, the wife and their baby were 'snubbed', while the husband texted Kangana 'begging and pleading' her to meet him. She seemingly took a dig at Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt. Ranbir had recently joined mom-actor Nishita Kapoor and family in London for her birthday, while Alia Bhatt and daughter Raha stayed in India. Kangana posted these notes on Instagram Stories moments after hinting at the negative media coverage about one of her new projects.

Kangana teases her next project
Taking to Instagram Stories on Tuesday, Kangana shared a post, originally shared by Ahimsa Entertainment. She didn't caption it. The original post had a poster featuring two faces, a cassette and a gun all connected to one another. It was shared with the caption, "And... action! Ahimsa Entertainment and Trident Arts are teaming up for a MEGA project. A powerhouse duo from North and South all set to light up the screen! Shoot starts soon. Can you guess our stars?"

Taking to the comment section, fans unanimously said that the female lead was Kangana. They, however, suggested many names including Vijay Sethupathi, Suriya, Ram Charan and Vijay, among others, as the male lead. Kangana slams news articles trolling her

On Instagram Stories, Kangana then shared screenshots of two articles with similar headlines.

Oppenheimer actor Matt Damon promised wife he'd go on a break, unless Christopher Nolan called him and offered a film

Matt Damon was thinking of taking a sabbatical from acting – till director Christopher Nolan called. Matt promised his wife in couple's therapy that he'd take a break to focus on their marriage and family. But there was one exception: Christopher Nolan calls and offers him a movie. Matt stars in Christopher's Oppenheimer.

About Oppenheimer
Oppenheimer is the biopic of nuclear physicist and the 'father of the atomic bomb,' J Robert Oppenheimer. It stars Cillian Murphy in the titular role and the ensemble consists of Robert Downey Jr, Emily Blunt, Florence Pugh, Gary Oldman and Rami Malek among others. Produced by Universal Pictures, the film will release in cinemas on July 21.

Matt on the Nolan caveat



"This is going to sound made up, but it's actually true. I had – not to get too personal – negotiated extensively with my wife that I was taking time off. I had been in Interstellar, and then Chris put me on ice for a couple of movies, so I wasn't in the rotation. But I actually negotiated in couples therapy – this is a true story – the one caveat to my taking time off was if Chris Nolan called. This is without knowing whether or not he was working on any-

thing, because he never tells you. He just calls you out of the blue. And so, it was a moment in my household," Matt told Entertainment Weekly in an interview.

Matt and Christopher's collaborations

In an interview to Fandango, Matt recalled and joked how Christopher offered him the part. "He called and said you know they say there are no small parts (only small actors). This is a small part (laughs)."

Matt, however, wasn't on Christopher's radar since then. They didn't collaborate for his next two films, the 2017 war drama Dunkirk and the 2020 sci-fi thriller Tenet. Christopher, however, did call Matt for yet

Randeep Hooda serves rations to flood-hit people in Haryana



Actor Randeep Hooda, who is known for films like 'Sarbjit', 'Jannat 2', 'Once Upon a Time in Mumbai', has been on ground in the flood-hit areas of Haryana helping the people with ration.

The actor was seen in a picture distributing ration to the people.

The picture was shared by Khalsa Aid in the Stories section of their Instagram account.

In the picture, Randeep can be seen wearing a saffron coloured headgear as he hands out a bottle of cooking oil to a survivor as he is surrounded by the volunteer team. Meanwhile, on the work front, the actor recently wrapped up the shooting of his upcoming film 'Swatantra Veer Savarkar'.

The film, which is based on the controversial political figure and Hindutva ideologue Veer Savarkar, also marks Randeep's directorial debut.

The actor had notified about the completion of the film through his social media and also shared the misconceptions around his diet during the filming of the project. The actor wrote in the caption, "It's a wrap for #VeerSavarkar. I have been to death and back for this film but that is a topic for another day. For now, big heartfelt thanks to my team, cast and crew, to have rallied day and night behind me through thick and thin and made it happen (sic)."

He further mentioned, "Finally now I can eat properly, so looking forward to a scrumptious meal. Btw, there are a lot of MISCONCEPTIONS on what I ate and didn't eat during this stretched period of shoot and I'll clarify that VERY SOON. Vande Mataram! #ShootWrap #Gratitude."

Aahana Kumra: I feel pissed that my show wasn't renewed for season 2 because its a comedy

ACTOR AAHANA KUMRA REVEALS THAT SHE IS PISSED AT A PLATFORM FOR NOT RENEWING S SEASON TWO FOR HER SHOW.

Aahana Kumra, who has starred in several OTT shows of different genres, including comedy dramas and family entertainers, reveals that she is pissed at an unnamed platform for not renewing her show for a season 2. "I would not like to name them, but I am pissed," she says.

The 38-year-old narrates, "I was a part of an incredible and beautiful show, with an amazing ensemble cast. It was shot during Covid and was a come-

dy. They (the platform) did not do a season two of it, and till date, our makers, producers, directors, and the entire cast gets asked why season two does not happen, and there is no answer to that, because apparently the platform didn't give a nod to season two."

Kumra feels that the reason behind the same could be the lack of acceptance of comedy genre shows and movies by platforms. "It was so difficult to make it, because we made it

during Covid. It was a show that everybody watched with their family and enjoyed thoroughly. It was a comedy drama, maybe that's the reason why it wasn't renewed for season 2," she elaborates.

"My makers were also very angry, because they did not give us a season two. The platform seems to be very happy and pleased making the same violent shows again and again. They don't want to take the risk. They will make another reality

show on OTT and make it sound like another Bigg Boss. It is just weird," the actor adds.

Kumra however questions the platforms: "If you are not going to give a chance to a show, then who is going to make it? and continues, "You have to let things in other genres thrive. If you are not going to let it thrive, then how will people make it?" Citing examples of shows like Sarabhai Vs Sarabhai and Khichdi, Kumra says that "These iconic shows never had

to show any violence or rely on such a gimmick, it was just pure content. If your pure content is good, then you don't need to rely upon these (violence) things to make things work."

She goes on to share that she feels there is a scarcity of family entertainers and comedy dramas on OTT platforms, and says, "We don't have anything comical on OTT. I feel very pissed off about the fact that they just don't want to attempt it."



How this unusual exercise while sitting down can help lower your blood sugar and fat levels

Here's an exercise that many sedentary individuals and office workers could get behind: Soleus push-ups. No, it isn't an extreme or even a levelled-up version of the push-up; it doesn't even involve the same muscles.

Instead, much like how some of us like to jerk our legs up and down when seated, this exercise involves starting with your foot flat on the floor, then raising your heel off the ground to its highest points and letting it fall back down. Think of it as doing a tiptoeing exercise while sitting down.

The key takeaway is that the action, when done correctly, activates the soleus muscle and boosts oxidative metabolism during which blood sugar is utilised at "high levels for hours, not just minutes", said its creator Marc Hamilton, a professor of Health and Human Performance at the University of Houston, USA.

Not only that, keeping the soleus muscle metabolism humming is also effective at doubling the normal rate of fat burning between meals, he said.

In his study published in *iScience* in 2022, test subjects were given a glucose drink each before performing soleus push-ups in a controlled setting for 270 minutes spread out over the day. That's 4.5 hours of leg shaking if you're counting. The results: There was a 52 per cent improvement in blood glucose



fluctuations and 60 per cent less insulin requirement that lasted over three hours.

According to Prof Hamilton, the 600 muscles in your body usually contribute only about 15 per cent of your total body's oxidative metabolism in the three hours after consuming carbohydrate.

"Despite the fact that the soleus is only 1 per cent of the body weight, it is capable of raising its metabolic rate during soleus

push-up contractions to easily double, even sometimes triple, the whole-body carbohydrate oxidation."

Elevated levels of blood sugar and fats have always been associated with metabolic syndrome, which is a collection of health issues occurring together, including high blood pressure, Type 2 diabetes, stroke and heart disease.

Whether it's the soleus muscle, the very leg-shaking action that

many of us regard as a bad habit could well help you lower your blood sugar level – and reduce your risk of metabolic diseases such as heart disease, stroke and Type 2 diabetes.

"So why is this muscle so special? Are there other muscles in our bodies that could also deliver the same benefits? And should you give this push-up a shot?"

WHAT IS THE SOLEUS MUSCLE AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

The soleus muscle is part of the calf muscle. If you want to get more specific, it starts behind the knee and extends down about 10cm to 15cm to above the heel bone before it merges with some connective tissues to form the Achilles heel, said Dr Nicholas Leong, the registrar of Tan Tock Seng Hospital's Sports Medicine & Surgery Clinic.

Whether it's the soleus muscle, biceps or glutes, all muscles

IT'S CALLED A SOLEUS PUSH-UP AND IT INVOLVES ACTIVATING THAT MUSCLE IN YOUR CALF BY "TIPTOEING" WHILE SITTING DOWN. CNA LIFESTYLE ASKS EXPERTS TO FIND OUT JUST HOW EFFECTIVE THIS CAN BE.

rely on various combinations of three main fuels to keep you moving: Glycogen, blood sugar (or glucose) and fats. But which fuel your muscles prefer to tap on depends on the activity intensity and duration, said Clinical Associate Professor Mandy Zhang, who is a consultant with Changi General Hospital's Department of Sport and Exercise Medicine.

"For example, during high-intensity interval training and weight lifting, the muscles primarily use glucose as an energy source," she said. "When it comes to endurance activities such as long-distance running and cycling, the muscles typically use both fat and carbohydrate (which breaks down into glucose) in a slow energy burn."

During high-intensity activities such as weight lifting, the muscles primarily use glucose as an energy source. (Photo: iStock/milanvirjevic)

There are also the muscle fibres to consider. There are two types intermingled within any single muscle in your body: Fast-twitch muscle fibres and slow-twitch muscle fibres, said Dr

Leong. Because slow-twitch muscle fibres, such as the ones found in the soleus muscle, are more resistant to fatigue, they can be exercised longer, which "can lead to greater blood glucose being utilised", he said. It also explains how the test subjects were able to keep up the soleus push-ups for hours.

Slow-twitch muscle fibres are also found in the back for posture maintenance, said Dr Leong. "To date, I am not aware of any studies that investigate the activation of other small muscles and the corresponding increase in whole-body oxidative metabolic rate."

HOW DOES IT COMPARE TO WALKING, WHICH IS ANOTHER ENTRY-LEVEL ACTIVITY?

While the soleus push-up movement might resemble walking (raising the heel and contracting the calf), Prof Hamilton said that it is the exact opposite. When walking, the body minimises the amount of energy used. However, the soleus push-up makes the soleus muscle use as much energy as possible for a long duration, he said.

Lose belly fat with these 6 exercises approved by top fitness expert

"Alena, delete my belly fat." If only it was as easy to get a flat abdomen. But, actually, it is not that difficult either. Six exercises and six minutes can transform the way you look. All you need is discipline and focus. Akshay Rathi, Fitness manager at Fit by Ravissant, New Delhi, tells us six exercises that can be done at a gym or at your own home to get rid of the belly fat. "Make sure that your tummy is sucked in while doing these exercises. Don't let your core hang loose," says Rathi.

So get your timer out and get started to melt away your belly fat. If you don't want to use a timer, you could do three sets of 15 to 20 repetitions. In between sets, you can take a break of 30 seconds up to one minute.

Mountain climber: Come to push-up position, making sure that your hands are directly beneath your shoulders. Once you are in the position, bring one knee to the chest without arching your back or dropping your hips. The movement is that of running in plank position. You can increase the speed as per your strength. If holding a push-up on ground level seems hard, you could use a sofa or table to do the routine. The only difference would be that there would be an incline to the posture. This exercise engages the core and helps burn belly fat.

Plank: Get into push up position by planting your hands directly under your shoulders, ground toes into the floor, squeeze glutes to stabilise your body. Your head should be in line with your back. Focus on a spot on the floor. Hold this position for at least 30 seconds in the beginning and increase it steadily every day. Planks are perfect for burning belly fat they boost metabolic rate and increase core strength.

Reverse crunches: Lie down on a mat on your back, face up, arms by your side. Stretch your legs and raise them to 90 degrees. This will be your starting position. Bring your legs towards your head, exhaling while doing so. Hold. And then as you inhale, return to your starting position. The legs will come back to the 90 degrees, they are not to be taken to the ground. Repeat this to complete your set. Reverse crunches are focussed on lower part of abs.

Russian twists: Sit up and raise your legs off the ground. Lean back a little so that you form a V-shape with your body.

And then twist your torso to the sides – left and right. You can bend the knees if you want. To add weight, you can use a water bottle or a football/basketball ball lying around the house. This exercise works on your obliques very well which gives a leaner look to the upper body.

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 your 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 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.

Tracking brain wave signatures could reduce the risk of postoperative brain dysfunction

WASHINGTON: When patients undergo general anesthesia, their brain activity often slows down as they sink into unconsciousness. Higher doses of anesthetic drugs can induce an even deeper state of unconsciousness known as burst suppression, which is associated with cognitive impairments after the patient wakes up.

A new study from MIT, in which the researchers analyzed the EEG patterns of patients under anesthesia, has revealed brain wave signatures that could help anesthesiologists determine when patients are transitioning into that deeper state of unconsciousness. This could enable them to prevent patients from falling into that state, reducing the risk of postoperative brain dysfunction.

One of these distinctive patterns emerged in the brain's alpha waves (which have a frequency of eight to 14 cycles per second). Once patients became unconscious, these waves started to wax and wane in amplitude. As patients went deeper into unconsciousness, the pattern of this waxing and waning in amplitude, or amplitude modulation, continually changed.

If you track this modulation as it gets deeper or shallower, you have a very principled way to track level of unconsciousness under anesthesia."

Emery Brown, the Edward Hood Taplin Professor of Medical Engineering and

Computational Neuroscience and member of MIT's Picower Institute for Learning and Memory and the Institute for Medical Engineering and Science.

Brown is the senior author of the new study, which appears this week in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. The lead authors of the paper are Picower Institute research scientist Elie Adam, Ohyeon Kwon '20, and graduate student Karla Montejo.

Measuring brain waves Brain waves, which are generated by synchronized neuronal activity, oscillate at different frequencies depending on what kind of task the brain is performing. When the brain is strongly engaged in mental activity, it produces higher-frequency beta (15-30 hertz) and gamma (greater than 30 hertz) oscillations, which are believed to help organize information and enhance communication between different brain regions.

Commonly used anesthesia drugs such as propofol have a significant effect on these oscillations. During anesthesia induced by propofol or other anesthetics that increase the effectiveness of GABAergic inhibitory receptors in the

brain, the brain enters a state of unconsciousness known as slow-delta-alpha (SDA). This state is characterized by slow (0.1-1 hertz), delta (1-4 hertz) and alpha (8-14 hertz) oscillations.

With higher doses of these anesthetic drugs, the brain can fall into an even deeper state of unconsciousness.

When in this state, known as burst suppression, EEG recordings from the brain show long periods of inactivity, punctuated by brief bursts of low-amplitude oscillations. When patients enter this state, they are more likely to experience postoperative confusion, delirium, and memory loss. These effects, which can last for hours, days, weeks, or months, are more common in elderly patients.

Drug Discovery eBook Compilation of the top interviews, articles, and news in the last year.

SDA and burst suppression produce distinctive EEG patterns that have been well-studied. However, they have been studied as separate brain states; what happens during the transition between the two states is less clear. That

transition is what the MIT team set out to analyze in this study.

To do that, the researchers studied 10 healthy volunteers and 30 patients who were undergoing surgery. Most of the patients received propofol intravenously, and the rest received sevoflurane, a commonly used anesthetic gas. Both of these drugs act on GABA receptors in the brain, which reduce neuron excitability.

As the dosage of propofol was increased, patients showed two distinctive patterns of change in their EEGs. The first pattern was seen in the alpha waves, which started to wax and wane. As the dose increased, waxing was shortened and waning was prolonged, until the patient reached the state of burst suppression.

"You can see a very strong modulation, which is always there. As the modulation gets to be more profound, it eventually flattens out, and that's when the brain reaches the deeper state," Brown says. When the amount of drug was reduced, the amplitude of the alpha waves began to increase again. The researchers also found a distinctive pattern in the slow and delta waves seen in the patients' EEG readings. Slow and delta oscillations are the slowest brain waves, and as the amount of drug was increased, the frequency of these waves became slower and slower, reflecting a decrease in brain activity.

Metabolic disruption The researchers hypothesize that propofol

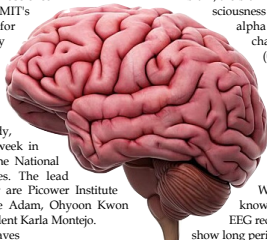
exerts these effects through its influence on neuron metabolism. The drug is postulated to disrupt the production of ATP, the molecules that cells use to store energy. As ATP production declines, neurons eventually become unable to fire, leading to burst suppression.

"This is consistent with the observation that burst suppression is very frequent in older patients, because their metabolism may be less well-regulated than that of younger patients," Brown says.

The findings could offer anesthesiologists more refined control over a patient's state of unconsciousness during surgery, says Brown. He now hopes to develop an algorithm that could generate a warning that a patient is approaching burst suppression, which could be displayed on a monitor in the operating room. He says that anesthesiologists could also learn to make that determination by looking for these patterns in a patient's EEG.

"One of the reasons we're excited about this is that it's something you can actually see in the raw EEG," Brown says. "Now that we have pointed out these patterns, they're very easy to see."

The researchers now plan to further explore what is happening to the brain's metabolism during the transition to burst suppression, using animal models. The research was funded in part by the Picower Institute Innovation Fund and the National Institutes of Health.



Districts, Municipalities, Panchayats with exemplary performance in tackling drug menace to be suitably rewarded: Dr Mehta

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JULY 18: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta remarked that the Districts, Municipalities and Panchayats registering outstanding performance in dealing with narcotics would be suitably rewarded by the UT Administration.

The Chief Secretary made these remarks while chairing the 6th UT Level NCORD meeting attended by ACS Home, Special DC, CID, Special DG, Crime, Principal Secretary, Forest; Principal Secretary, Education; ADGP, Kashmir/Jammu, Commissioner Secretary, RDD; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir/Jammu; DG Prosecution, Deputy Commissioners, District SPs besides other officers of the concerned departments.

During the meeting, Dr Mehta impressed upon the officers to take all the measures to eradicate



the evil in its entirety. He asked them to put a fool proof system in place to convert most of the arrests into convictions. He told them to gradually increase the sanitized areas free from drugs and declare them as 'Drug Free' after due assessment.

He directed for framing well thought out guidelines for declaring the Panchayats as 'Drug Free' in consultation with different agencies like PRI members, Police, Health, Education, RDD, Revenue and Social Welfare

Departments. He also took note of the pharmacy shops with functional CCTVs and maintenance of registers showing sale of scheduled drugs. He asked for fixing the timeframe to complete the process of having these installed at each chemist shop across the UT.

In order to ensure that the illicit trade of drug trafficking is curbed effectively the Chief Secretary asked the Police and District administration to attach the properties of drug dealers as provided under the relevant rules governing it. He observed that the wrongdoers need to be dealt with iron hand to save our youth from becoming prey to their nefarious designs. He made out that the 'Nasha Mukht J&K' is not a mere slogan but a goal to be achieved collectively. He called for practising social boycott against the drug peddlers or those engaged in this trade. He called upon the educa-

tional institutions to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity there to local police for investigation so that our Schools/Colleges do not become victims of such immorality.

While speaking in the meeting the ACS Home, KK Goyal advised the police administration to hold capacity building workshops for their officers dealing with PIT-NDPS Act so that they are sensitized about the nuances of handling such cases in a more professional manner. He said that each Panchayat should be declared 'Drug free' only when it is certified by the concerned institutions that there is no drug dealer, cultivator and consumer in the village.

While giving details of the performance registered by the Department in rooting out this menace the Special DGE, Crime, AK Chaudhary gave out that a total of 1850 cases were registered in 2022 arresting 2756 involved

persons and registration of 1410 cases till June this year thereby arresting 2068 persons named in the FIRs.

It was further given out that this year 251.42 Kgs of Charas, 124.47 Kgs of Heroin/Brown Sugar, 92.24 Kgs of Ganja, 3374.69 Kgs of Fuki/Poppy straw, 105588 Caps/Tabs/Injections/Bottles of contraband substances were seized under the NDPS Act up to June, 2023.

Moreover it was revealed that in order to plug any loopholes on part of administration action has been taken against IOs/prosecution in NDPS cases which have been dismissed by the trial courts for any shortcomings/discrepancies during investigation. A Total of 95 cases from UT have been identified so far out of which 74 have been referred to ADGP Jammu and 21 were referred to ADGP Kashmir for taking action against erring officials.

DC Reasi chairs Vidyalaya Management Committee Meet at JNV Karua

JJ NEWS SERVICE

REASI, JULY 18: Deputy Commissioner, Reasi Babila Rakwal today visited JNV Reasi and chaired the Vidyalaya Management Committee meeting.

Chief Education Officer, Reasi Sunita Bali; Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Ravinder Manhas, Executive Engineer PDD Reasi, Sunil Pandoh; Principal KV Jyotipuram P.N Chaki and Principal JNV Reasi Romesh Chander were also present in the meeting.

The School Principal, Romesh Chander formally welcomed the Chairperson and other committee members. After a power-point presentation on the activities of the school, the meeting discussed the agenda points. The Deputy Commissioner passed necessary instructions to concerned members to resolve the issues being faced by the Vidyalaya administration.

Sangeeta Shonik, PGT English delivered the vote of thanks and hailed the Chairperson and other members for sparing their valuable time in the interest of students and staff of JNV Reasi.

Devika Literary Club GDC Boys organises book release function

JJ NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, JULY 18: As part of the series of the events being held Azadi Ka Amrut Kaal, G20 Presidency of India for Shikshit Bharat and Sanghatit Bharat Abhiyan, the Devika Literary Club of the Government College for Boys Udhampur today organised a book release function of the book penned by Advocate Dr. Sumer Khajuria and co-authored by Advocate Anil Khajuria and Advocate Sunil Khajuria.

The Book was released by the Chief Guest - the College Principal Prof.(Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta in presence of the senior staff of the college.

The program was convened by Dr. Pankaj Sharma Coordinator AKAM Cell and Devika Literary Club.

The chief guest appreciated the work and scholarship of Advocate Dr. Sumer Khajuria for the release of his Book - Pride of Jammu and Kashmir with Complete Constitution of India, Legal Audit Thereof. He said that every word written in the book has a proper evidential and argument based research and opined that this book will surely go a long way to bring clarity to the readers and scholars regarding the topics included in the book. Earlier, the program started with the formal welcome by Dr. Pankaj Sharma, wherein he also laid a road forward for the discussion on the book.

He impressed upon the officers to become people friendly and serve them with dedication and compassion. MP Khatana exhorted the officers to expedite the ongoing works for timely completion and dedication to the public. He also asked the officers to remain available for the people and ensure the genuine and timely redressal of their issues/ demands. He reiterated the government's unwavering commitment of enhancing the quality of life of the residents and ensuring holistic development in all aspects of their lives.

The MP reviewed achievements under Swachata Abhiyan and asked EOs of the MCs to ensure door to door collection, segregation and scientific disposal or recycling of the waste.

He emphasized on extending adequate benefits to the deserving under Forest Rights Act and other such initiatives of the UT and Union government. The program was attended by Prof. Babu Lal Thakur, Prof. Romesh Kumar Atri, Dr. Naresh Sharma, Prof. Intiaz Shahid, Prof. Samta Sharma, Dr. Ajay Sharma and Prof. Vaid Sarver along with a number of other staff of the college.

The vote of thanks was tendered by Prof. Samta Sharma, HOD History and Convener Heritage Club of the College.

DC Kupwara reviews arrangements for Independence Day, 2023 celebration

Asks officers to ensure foolproof arrangements

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA, JULY 18: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the arrangements being put in place by different departments for smooth celebration of Independence Day 2023 in the district. The meeting discussed the various issues with regard to smooth conduct of the National event. The DC received feedback from the officers with regard to preparations and gave necessary directions to the concerned officers to ensure foolproof arrangements. She asked officers to work in tandem and coordination to yield better results.

The DC directed the officers of line departments to exhibit different schemes of their respective departments on the National event.

She asked the Chief Education Officer and other concerned to prepare a variety of cultural programmes with special focus on patriotism and local culture. She directed them to ensure proper screening of cultural items and select vibrant and energetic items for the celebration. The DC stressed upon all officers and functionaries to ensure their presence at the venue on time. Other officers were also directed to ensure foolproof and hassle free arrangements.

ADC Ramban reviews Muharram arrangements

JJ NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, JULY 18: Additional Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Harbans Lal Sharma today chaired a meeting of officers and representatives of Shia Federation here to review arrangements put in place for Muharram-ul-Haram starting from 19th July.

Chief Medical Officer Dr. Kamal Zadu, Executive Engineer JPDCL, Jal Shakti, CEO MC Ramban, Tehsiladar, Dy.SP traffic, Dy. SP Hqtr. and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

The meeting discussed demands projected by the representatives of Shia associations for the smooth conduct of Muharram.

The meeting discussed arrangements for power supply, water supply, renovation of roads, provision of ration, firewood, sanitation, street lighting and medicare facilities. The ADC instructed Jal Shakti and JPDCL to ensure uninterrupted power and water supply, while the health department was asked to ensure availability of healthcare facilities at places of congregations.

Sildhar becomes 1st Panchayat in Ramban district to bag 'Har Ghar Jal' certification under JJM

JJ NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, JULY 18: Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Musarat Islam today inspected works completed under the flagship Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in Panchayat Sildhar. The DC was accompanied by Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti, Rajeev Gai; AEE, Rocky Mahajan, JEs, Sarpanch, Anita Kumari, Project management unit officers, officers of Implementation Support Agencies (ISA) and other stakeholders. Chairing Maha Gramsabha at Sildhar, the DC informed that a total of 88 JJM schemes are being executed in district Ramban for providing functional Tap Water connections to every household.

The DC Ramban said that Sildhar has become the 1st Panchayat to have completed 'Har Ghar Jal' certification in the district, where the functional tap water connection has been provided to every household. He congratulated the Sarpanch, civil society and the beneficiaries of Jal Jeevan Mission scheme for achieving the milestone. He also hailed Executive Engineer, AEE, JE, and team of project management and other officers of ISA for ensuring 100% FHTC coverage in Panchayat Sildhar. The DC also urged participants to be a part of the campaign 'Catch the Rain, where it falls, when it falls' to capture, store and conserve the rain water and other rejuvenation methods to rejuvenate and protect natural springs from getting dry.

He hailed local PR Anita for her commendable work in promoting Jal Jeevan Mission and asked other PRIs to promote water conservation as a community movement.

He informed that many other Panchayats of the district are on last mile coverage to achieve the target of Har Ghar Jal certification.

DC initiates installation of 600 Street Lights project for Budgam Town, drainage project at Humhama

JJ NEWS SERVICE

BUDGAM, JULY 18: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo today initiated the installation of 600 street lights mega project for Budgam

town at Old Bus Stand Budgam. He said that the installation would enhance the lighting system and illumination of main town Budgam. The DC said that the

street lights project was approved under the KLC funds utilization, after a need was felt regarding proper street lighting facilities in the main town. Later, DC also initiated the drainage construction

project at Humhama Chowk under Humhama-Mirgund integrated road project. He said that drainage works shall be carried out at all identified spots along Humhama - Budgam route

for smooth wash out of drainage waters. Akshay said that the District Administration is committed to the beautification and development of all areas of the district. Among others, ADCC

Budgam, Dr Akramullah Tak; JD Planning, Executive Engineers of KPDC, Budgam, R&B, Executive Officers of Municipal Committee and other concerned were present on the occasion.

DC Srinagar Chairs NCORD meeting

Emphasises on strengthening intelligence network to crack hotspots of drugs, obstructing drug-peddling

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR JULY 18:- A meeting of District Level Committee of Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) was today held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Ajaz Asad at Conference Hall of DC Office Complex in order to discuss the comprehensive strategy to counter the menace of drug abuse in Srinagar. The DC reviewed the implementation of the measures taken and progress achieved to eliminate drug abuse and its peddling from the Srinagar District particularly during the last two months. The meeting among others was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Shabir Ahmad, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Ahmad Kataria, Superintendent of Police, Arif Amin Shah, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, SDM East, Chief Education Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, DDMO Srinagar, besides Nodal Officer



Colleges, representative from Private Schools Association, Incharge Drug De-addiction Centre SMHS Hospital, Incharge ATF, SKIMS Bemina and other concerned.

At the outset, the DC took a detailed appraisal from concerned members of NCORD Committee regarding the present scenario of drug related occurrences, areas of concern, age group of addicts, hot spots of drug abuse in the District.

The DC took feedback from the members of the Committee including SP Headquarter, Incharge Drug De-addiction Centre SMHS Hospital and Incharge ATF, SKIMS Bemina who presented the latest

ficking. The DC also called for attacking the problem of drugs from both supply and demand sides vital to contain the drug peddling and break the supply chain. He also called for stringent action against the culprits involved in the hazardous trade of drugs. The DC asked the Revenue and Police authorities to pace up the process of the hotspots of the drugs SIMILARLY, the DC also laid thrust on further intensifying IEC campaigns at Schools and Colleges levels to sensitize students and common masses about ill effects of drugs as well as encouraging healthy activities and hobbies to discourage drug abuse. The DC asked the Chief Education Officer and Nodal Officer Colleges to conduct seminars, rallies and other programmes on the harmful effects of drug menace in all Government and Private Educational Institutions of the District so that youth is discouraged from tempting towards drugs. The DC stressed on adopting zero tolerance against the drug abuse in all Educational Institutions of the District. The DC laid stress on iden-

tification of drug hotspots in the District and asked the enforcement agencies to conduct raids on such identified hotspots to nab the drug peddlers. During the meeting, the DC also asked the RTO and Health Departments to constitute a special Joint team to conduct random testing of vulnerable groups including drivers of commercial vehicles.

The DC also emphasised on effective functioning of Addiction Treatment Facility Centres (ATFCs) to fight against drug addiction and mitigate the sufferings of the drugs affected persons. He also laid trust on ensuring proper counselling and rehabilitation for individuals struggling with addiction. SP Headquarter, Arif Amin Shah apprised the meeting that as many as 15 new drug peddlers have been detained under Narco PSA since May, 2023, besides 9 accused detained under PIT NDPS. In addition, 60gms of heroin, Charas, 348.28 gm, 9.5 kgs of Bung Poppy, 800 psychotropic syrup bottles, 24860 capsules/tablets of psychotropic substances were recovered.

While speaking in the meeting the ACS Home, KK Goyal advised the police administration to hold capacity building workshops for their officers dealing with PIT-NDPS Act so that they are sensitized about the nuances of handling such cases in a more professional manner. He said that each Panchayat should be declared 'Drug free' only when it is certified by the concerned institutions that there is no drug dealer, cultivator and consumer in the village.

While giving details of the performance registered by the Department in rooting out this menace the Special DGE, Crime, AK Chaudhary gave out that a total of 1850 cases were registered in 2022 arresting 2756 involved persons and registration of 1410 cases till June this year thereby arresting 2068 persons named in the FIRs. It was further given out that this year 251.42 Kgs of Charas, 124.47 Kgs of Heroin/Brown Sugar, 92.24 Kgs of Ganja, 3374.69 Kgs of Fuki/Poppy straw, 105588 Caps/Tabs/Injections/Bottles of contraband substances were seized under the NDPS Act up to June, 2023. Moreover it was revealed that in order to plug any loopholes on part of administration action has been taken against IOs/prosecution in NDPS cases which have been dismissed by the trial courts for any shortcomings/discrepancies during investigation. A Total of 95 cases from UT have been identified so far out of which 74 have been referred to ADGP Jammu and 21 were referred to ADGP Kashmir for taking action against erring officials.

DC B'la chairs District Level Cooperative Development Committee (DCDC) Meeting

Meeting aims at strengthening PACS as Vibrant Economic Entities in Baramulla: Dr Sehrish

JJ NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA, JULY 18: In order to increase the viability of PACS and diversify their business activities to make them vibrant economic entities at village level, a meeting of District Level Cooperative Development Committee (DCDC) today met at DC Office Complex here under the chairmanship of District Collector/ District Development Commissioner Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar.

Additional District Development Commissioner Aijaz Abdullah Saraf; Deputy Registrar Cooperative Baramulla, Mohammad Aarif Shah; Chief Executive Officer, Zila Panchayat, Additional District Magistrate (Revenue), Officers of Agriculture, Food and Civil Supplies, Animal Husbandry departments besides representatives of concerned departments were present in the meeting. The meeting was held to chalk out a comprehensive Action Plan for extending



Multipurpose Primary Agricultural Cooperative Society (PACS) and Dairy/Fishery Primary Cooperative Societies covering all panchayat segments and villages in the district. During the meeting, it was informed that

here are a total of 31 PACS in the district wherein 32246 members are associated covering all the panchayat halqas of the district. It was also given out that a total number of Cooperatives registered till date stands at Speaking on the occasion, Dr Sehrish delib-

erated on the objectives of the meeting and appealed to the committee members to lend their best efforts to achieve the objective of strengthening the cooperative movement and deepening its reach to the grassroots level as envisaged by the Union Ministry of Cooperation.

She called for making primary agricultural credit societies (PACS) as vibrant economic entities thereby achieving the goal of Sekhar Se Samridhi. Further, the DC also exhorted upon the departments of Government of India at the level of PACS or primary dairy/ fishery cooperative societies with the support of Registrar of cooperative societies.

Moreover, the DC exhorted upon the departmental heads and other committee members to coordinate with the DRCS to finalize setting up PACS from agriculture, dairy, fisheries and to support in providing infrastructure and other logistics to form new PACS at panchayat and village levels.

DDC reviews arrangements for Budha Amarnath Yatra in Rajouri



JJ NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, JULY 18: District Development Commissioner of Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, today chaired a meeting to review the arrangements for the annual Budha Amarnath Yatra.

During the meeting, the DDC exhorted the officers to make the arrangements pertaining to their departments well in time to avoid any inconvenience to the pilgrims. The DDC stressed the need for foolproof security arrangements, adequate medical facilities, and other essential services to be provided to the pilgrims.

The officers were also reminded of the importance of putting all necessary arrangements in place well in advance. The DDC urged them to work diligently and leave no stone unturned in their efforts to make the yatra a fulfilling and memorable experience for everyone who embarks on this spiritual journey.

The Budha Amarnath Yatra is a highly revered pilgrimage that draws devotees from all over the region. It is a time when the faithful seek spiritual enlightenment and connect with the divine. Ensuring that all arrangements are in place is crucial to the success of the yatra and the safety of the pilgrims.

With the efforts of the officers and the support of the local community, the Budha Amarnath Yatra is expected to be a fulfilling and memorable experience for all those who undertake it.

The meeting was attended by the DFO Rajouri, Arshdeep Singh; DFO Nowshera; ADC Rajouri, Rajeev Kumar Khajuria; ADC Sunderbani, Vinod Kumar Behnal; ADC Nowhera, Kartar Singh; ASP, Vitek Shekhar; EXEN Jal Shakti Rajouri, Ashwini Sharma; EXEN Jal Shakti Nowshera, Vipin Kumar; Dy. SP Traffic, Nawaz Chowdhary and other concerned stakeholders.

aEnsure implementation of provisions of Forest Rights Act in letter & spirit: DC Pulwama

JJ NEWS SERVICE

PULWAMA, JULY 18: In order to ensure effective implementation of provisions of Forest Rights Act in the district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr Basharat Qayoom today convened a meeting of concerned officers at DC office, here.

The DC was briefed in detail about the action taken regarding implementation of Forest Rights Act in the district and procedures adopted in the Forest Rights Act vis-a-vis formation of Gram Sabha, Sub Divisional level and District level Committees to recognize and vest the forest rights to the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers.

During the meeting, DC was apprised that in Tral Forest Division all the 26 cases under FRA Act stands disposed-off and there are zero pending claims either at Gram Sabha or D.L.C. Similarly, in the Romshi Forest Division out of 36 cases received under FRA Act, 9 have been rejected and 26 cases have been sent back to DLC for completion of formalities.

The DC impressed upon the members to ensure thorough verification of the claims as per guidelines. He directed for submitting the claims received so far to DLCs after verification. He also stressed fixing a particular day for the District Level Committee to decide the claims.

Dr Basharat stressing that the major role for expediting the disposal of pending cases lies with Forest, Revenue and Rural development departments. Coordination between these departments and proper awareness is a prerequisite in conducting Special Gram Sabhas to settle pending issues, he emphasized.

The officers were further directed to ensure welfare measures for the tribal/nomadic population are taken up to improve their education, health, livelihood and overall well-being. The meeting was attended by Addl. Dy. Commissioner Tral/Pulwama, DFO Shopian/Pulwama, DPO, ACP and Block Development Officers Ichgoose, Arpal, Tral and Dadsara.

DC Bandipora reviews preparations for Independence Day- 2023 celebrations

JJ NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, JULY 18: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmed on Tuesday convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the preparations for celebration of I-Day, 2023. The meeting discussed various preparations and arrangements to be put in place for the celebration of Independence Day-2023. It was given out that the main function of Independence Day will be held at SK Stadium Bandipora while similar functions will be held at sub divisional level and block level as well as at all Schools, Colleges, Government Institutions, Panchayats etc. Dr. Owais directed the concerned



to keep ready all the necessary arrangements including seating arrangements, PA system, uninterrupted power supply, drinking water, Medicare facilities, cleanliness and

sanitation and other required arrangements. The DC instructed concerned to ensure that all arrangements are made in advance for celebrations of Independence Day.

DC Kulgam visits Imam Bara at Shahoo Sahan; takes stock of Muharram arrangements

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KULGAM, JULY 18: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today visited Imam Bara at Shahoo Sahan area of the district to oversee the arrangements put in place for ensuring Muharram-ul-Haram by various departments.

During his visit, the DC took detailed stock of arrangements put in place by various departments to facil-

itate the people during the days of Muharram-ul-Haram.

He instructed the concerned officers to synergize efforts to ensure smooth conduct of Muharram-ul-Haram and extend all requisite facilities to the devotees.

The Department of PHE and PDD were asked to ensure adequate water and electricity supply with foolproof standby arrangements.

The concerned officers were directed by the DC to install street lights on

roads leading to Imam bars and to provide requisite facilities to the people throughout the Muharram days. He also interacted with the people and representatives of the Shia community and listened to their issues and demands.

ADC Vigar Ahmed Giri, ACR Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, ACP Mohammad Imran, CMO, Tehsil Darvesar and Pahlou, AEEs of PHE and PDD, and other officials accompanied the DC during the visit.

District Committee discusses revival of Cooperatives, implementation of "World's Largest Grain Storage Plan" at Doda

JJ NEWS SERVICE

DODA, JULY 18: Deputy Commissioner Doda, Vishesh Mahajan today chaired a meeting of District Cooperative Development Committee (DCDC) to discuss the rejuvenation of Cooperative Societies in the District and implementation of World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in the Cooperative Sector.

It was informed in the meeting that the district has 27 registered Cooperative Societies, out of which 26 are functional and are making profit for them. New cooperative

societies have been proposed in the Agro sector, Jan Aushadhi, and other such fields of business viable in the district. The Cooperative department has recovered an amount of Rs 14 lakh from NPAs out of the total 27 lakh outstanding amount. The information was provided by the Deputy Registrar Cooperative, Sumit Kumar, while briefing the meeting about the departmental activities in the district.

The DC appreciated the efforts of the department for making more than 50 per cent recovery of NPAs and asked the functionaries to reju-

venate the existing cooperative societies to enhance their sphere of activities/ business, negotiation capacity and profit making/ earning capacity. He advocated for new cooperatives in the field of Agriculture and Agro based sectors. He asked for developing a cooperative platform for catering the surplus milk production and vegetables in the district. Detailed discussion was held with the members of the District Cooperative Development Committee on the implementation and monitoring of the World's Largest Grain storage Plan. The Deputy Commissioner directed the

Cooperative Department to coordinate with Agriculture Department and other Line Departments in identifying PACS which show increasing trend in Grain Production for considering such PACS in World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in the local Cooperative Sector. The Agriculture Department was asked to submit the Block-wise data of Grain Production so that deserving PACS may be identified and put in Plan accordingly.

The DC emphasised on opening of Jan Aushadhi centres by the cooperatives and laid emphasis on rop-

ing in pharma graduates in such cooperatives so that the best medicine at the best price could be made available to the deserving. He emphasised on ensuring the most appropriate and productive location of the Jan Aushadhi.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, Pran Singh, Chief Planning Officer Suresh Kumar, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies, AD Fisheries, ISO FCS&CA Doda and representatives of Cooperative Societies and other concerned departments.

DDC Chairperson Budgam visits remote villages of Chadoora & Charar i Sharief

JJ NEWS SERVICE

BUDGAM, JULY 18: The Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Budgam, Nazir Ahmad Khan today undertook a momentous visit to the far-flung villages of Hufroo, Loolipora, Darwan, Nengroo Colony, and Chararipora in the Chadoora and Char i Sharief areas. This visit was aimed at understanding the issues faced by the local communities and exploring avenues for comprehensive development in these regions. The visit was marked by the presence of officials including the Block Development Council (BDC) Nagam and Pakharpora, members of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI). Their involvement underscored the commitment to ensuring effective implementation of developmental schemes.

During the extensive tour, Chairman DDC Budgam empathetically listened to the grievances, concerns and aspirations of the residents of Hufroo, Loolipora, Darwan, Nengroo Colony and Chararipora villages.

Moreover, one of the highlights was the visit to the newly constructed high school building at Chalyan Chootinar. Chairman DDC Budgam expressed his appreciation for this significant development, recognizing the vital role of education in empowering the youth and uplifting the overall socio-economic status of the region. He pledged to continue supporting initiatives that enhance educational infrastructure in the district. Chairperson Khan reaffirmed the DDC's dedication to equitable development, promising the implementation of projects that positively impact the lives of the citizens residing in the remotest corners of Budgam. He stressed the importance of collaborative efforts between the government and local representatives to ensure transparency, inclusivity, and efficient utilization of resources.

The visit concluded on a promising note, with the assurance from Chairman DDC Budgam that the issues raised during the meetings would be taken up with relevant authorities for prompt redressal. The collective resolve to work towards a prosperous and harmonious society was evident throughout the interactions, reinforcing the spirit of democracy and participatory governance.

DC Anantnag welcomes 1st batch of Hajis in district

JJ NEWS SERVICE

ANANTNAG, JULY 18: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, SF Hamid extended a warm welcome to the first batch of Hajjis from the district who successfully performed the annual Hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia.

The annual hajj pilgrimage is a significant religious journey for Muslims, and completing it is considered a momentary achievement for Muslims, as it is a religious duty and once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for those who are physically and financially able to undertake it.

It is a spiritual journey that holds immense importance in the lives of those who participate, as it allows Muslims to strengthen their faith, seeking forgiveness.

Power shutdown

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JULY 18: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCJ, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Batote, Bownwar and adjoining areas shall remain affected on July 20 from 6 am to 10 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Marheen, Bandhore, Rajghab, Paharpur, Hariachak, Koteppuna, Salapur, Sanjhi Morh, Changan, Nagri, Khokyal, Saidu, Jarmal, Airwan, Lakbar, Greater Kailash, Jallo Chak, Ratnu Chak, Bajalta, Kuper, Kanna Shargal, Malhoi Jaggir and adjoining areas shall remain affected on July 21 from 6 am to 10 am.

DC Budgam chairs District Cooperative Development Committee meeting

Calls for strengthening of Cooperatives & saturation in computerization of PACS

JJ NEWS SERVICE

BUDGAM, JULY 17: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo today chaired District level Cooperative Development Committee meeting at Conference Hall here.

Stressing on the strengthening of the Cooperative movement at ground level, the DC directed on formation of FPOs in the district.

While FPOs already exist in 7 blocks of the district, instructions were given to the concerned agency to write about formation of the same in other blocks to the concerned central agency and ground work including mobilisation and registration for it be initiated simultaneously in all blocks.

The DC emphasised on timely adoption of model bylaws by all primary agriculture credit societies (PACS) to make them economic generation resources. He also directed for timely updating of data on the



National Cooperative Database under phase I and phase II in the district. Instructions were given to all line departments to work in complete synergy for smooth conver-

gence of PACS with schemes including PM-Kusum besides identification of PACS for setting up of Jan Aushadhi Kendras at all required spots in the district.

During the meeting, Deputy Registrar Cooperative Budgam, Abida Nabi presented an overview of the present status of cooperative societies in the district besides deliberating upon the work being done to strengthen the Cooperative movement across the district.

The DC directed the officers to ensure CSC registration of all the 54 PACS of District Budgam be completed by next week.

He also directed the Cooperative Department to ensure higher registration of FPOs during the current financial year.

DC also reviewed the operation of Super Bazar, registration on GEM, and forming and revival of Cooperative societies. Among others, the meeting was attended by the Additional District Development Commissioner, Dr Akramullah Tak; JD Planning, ACP, Chief Agricultural Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, LDM, DDM NABARD, District Head KVK, representatives of Cooperative Bank, JKMPCL.



DC Shopian emphasizes upon strengthening Cooperative movement in the district

JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, JULY 18: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Faz Lal Haseeb today presided over the District Cooperative Development Committee meeting at Mini-Secretariat here to discuss measures for development of the cooperative sector in the district.

the department to revive and strengthen the societies. It was given that there are 158 registered cooperative societies in the district which include PACS, Dairy & Fisheries societies, marketing societies, apex societies and societies in other agri and non-agri sectors and efforts are not to give them required support for their upliftment and fillip. The DC urged the cooperative department to prepare a holistic development plan for the societies in the district and focus on

increasing membership. He further directed the concerned officials to make efforts to revise the hand-out and handicraft societies for strengthening cooperative movement in the district. He urged for assessing the financial/credit requirement of the PACS and exploring the options of mobilising the financial support from apex institutions like NCD/ NABARD/NDDB/NFDB. The DC also reviewed the progress of adoption of model by-laws by the

PACS, computerization of PACS, updating of data in the national cooperative database. He enjoined upon the line departments to collaborate with the cooperative department to link their schemes to enhance the livelihood opportunities for the rural populace. The meeting was attended by Lead District Manager Shopian, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, General Manager, Anantnag CC Bank and other concerned.

ADDC B'pora conducts physical verification of damages caused by natural calamities at Inderkote & Kanyari

JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, JULY 18: The Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Bandipora, M Ashraf Hakak along with representatives from the Roads and Buildings (R&B) department Sumbal and the Revenue Department Sumbal, undertook a thorough physical verification of damages caused by natural calamities, specifically fire and earthquakes, in the areas of Inderkote Sumbal and Kanyari Hajin.

The objective of the verification process was to assess the extent of the damages caused and gather accurate information to facilitate relief and rehabilitation efforts for the affected individuals and families. The joint team comprising M Ashraf Hakak, officials from the R&B

Department, and the Revenue Department meticulously inspected the affected areas to ascertain the scale of devastation and determine the necessary measures to address the immediate and long-term needs of the affected residents. The team interacted with the affected individuals, listened to their concerns, and empathized with their predicament.

Labour Deptt Shopian organises Awareness programme for Building & Other Construction Workers

Education assistance released in favour of 997 beneficiaries through DBT

JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, JULY 18: Labour Department Shopian today organized an awareness programme for building and other construction workers at the Employment Office, Shopian. The event was 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). Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC) Shopian, Peer Zameer Ahmed addressed the participants, and provided detailed information about the registration process. He also explained the welfare schemes currently run by the JKBOCWWB for the welfare of the construction workers.

ALC also informed that 11000 construction workers are active in the district till date and stressed for online registration instead of visiting offices to save their precious time. He enlightened the participants about the welfare schemes of JKBOCWWB, both presently active and those planned to be implemented in the next financial year. On the occasion, Dr. Nida Yousof, ALC, JKBOCWWB, 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 the 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-introduction 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.

JKEDI's Startup Leadership Summit 2023 propels 5 J&K Startups towards funding

Empowers 2 for Scale-up, & enrolls 12 in Accelerator Program

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 18: The Startup Leadership Summit organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) has brought forth opportunities for the region's startup ecosystem in the shape of selection of 5 promising startups for funding, 2 startups for scale-up support and the enrollment of 12 startups into The India Network's Accelerator Program.



The two-day event which served as a platform for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and entrepreneurial growth was attended by visionary entrepreneurs, industry experts and investors. During the summit, the selected startups were recognized for their exceptional potential and disruptive ideas across various sectors. Through a rigorous pitching process, these exceptional startups stood out by presenting their compelling business plans and forward-thinking vision. These startups have been handpicked based on their innovation, potential for growth, and commitment to making a significant impact in their respective industries. The program will provide the selected startups with unparalleled support, guidance and resources to fuel their entrepreneurial aspirations. By nurturing their ingenuity, offering mentorship from industry stalwarts, facilitating access to funding opportunities, and creating a vibrant ecosystem, the program aims to empower these startups to flourish and succeed in their ventures. Director JKEDI, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat

presided over the proceedings. He expressed deep admiration for the remarkable talent pool of startups and aspiring entrepreneurs who gathered at the Startup Leadership Summit, recognizing their exceptional potential and unwavering dedication to innovation and entrepreneurship. "Their vision, passion, and commitment to making a difference in their industries are truly commendable. Through this platform, we aim to empower them with the necessary tools and knowledge to thrive and succeed as entrepreneurs. Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Lt. Governor, the J&K Government has become a strong catalyst for the growth of startups and the empowerment of entrepreneurs. We are steadfast in our commitment to continually enhance this supportive ecosystem, fostering innovation and driving entrepreneurial success in J&K," he said. The funding support extended to the 5 selected startups will provide them with the necessary financial backing to propel their growth and

execute their business plans successfully. This injection of funds will enable them to scale their operations, expand their market reach, and foster innovation in their domains. The 2 startups chosen for the scale-up program will receive personalized support and guidance to accelerate their growth trajectory. This program will offer them strategic mentorship, market access opportunities, and valuable resources to navigate the challenges of scaling their businesses effectively. Moreover, the enrollment of 12 promising startups into the Accelerator Program opens doors to unparalleled support, mentorship, and access to a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem. These startups will benefit from industry expertise, specialized training, and networking opportunities, enabling them to refine their business models and accelerate their path to success. The selection process for funding, scale-up and the Accelerator Program was highly competitive, emphasizing the quality, viability, and potential impact of the participating startups.

DLSA Gbl organizes Legal Awareness programme on NALSA Schemes

JI NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, JULY 18: The District Legal Services Authority, (DLSA) Ganderbal, today organised a legal awareness programme on "NALSA Schemes, Concept of Free Legal Aid and Social Security Schemes", at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Tullamulla, Ganderbal, under the auspices of J&K Legal Services Authority and as per the calendar of activities for the month of July, 2023. The programme was held under the supervision of Chairman DLSA Ganderbal, Ritesh Kumar Dubey. The objective of the programme was to provide knowledge and

understanding of the NALSA schemes, free legal aid, and social security schemes provided by the government. Adv. Asif Mustafa, Assistant Legal Aid Defense Counsel, of DLSA Ganderbal threw light on the various NALSA schemes to ensure the availability of justice to all, regardless of their socio-economic background. He also emphasized the significance of social security schemes introduced by the government to help the vulnerable sectors of society, such as senior citizens, women, children, and persons with disabilities. He further highlighted how these schemes act as a safety net, ensuring basic welfare

and financial assistance for those in need. Bilal Ahmad Bhat, Social activist also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the role of DLSA Ganderbal and the importance of providing free legal aid to the marginalized sections of the society in building a just and cohesive society. The programme was also attended by Principal Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Staff members, PLV of DLSA Ganderbal and Students of the institution. The awareness programme concluded with a message urging the students to spread awareness about their rights and the availability of legal aid and support.

Department of Wildlife Protection J&K Government Office of the Wildlife Warden Jambu Zoo Jammu

Manda Hills, Near Hotel Ashok Jammu. Email: wujambuzoo@gmail.com

Corrigendum

With respect to the e-NIT No. 21/WLW/JZ of 2023-24 dated: 04-07-2023 i.e. **Completion of balance works at different locations at Jambu Zoo**, due to poor response in receiving the bids (only 1 bidder received), the bid submission date is hereby extended upto **24-07-2023**.

No. **WLWJZ/969-70** Dated: **17/07/2023** **DIP/J-5306/23** **Additional Wildlife Warden, Jambu Zoo, Jammu**

J&K FOREST DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE PROJECT OFFICER, MFP PROJECT, JAMMU

Email: projectofficermfp@gmail.com Fax: 01912565411

CORRIGENDUM

Subject: - Re-tendering of e-NIT No 09 of 2023-24 dated 22.05.2023.

Due to poor response of bidders, the above said e-Nit is hereby re-tendered and the new dates of submitting and opening of bids is as under

Publishing Date	17.07.2023, 1800 Hrs
Download Start Date	17.07.2023, 1800 Hrs
Bid Submission Start Date	17.07.2023, 1800 Hrs
Bid submission End Date	01.08.2023 upto 1800 Hrs
Date of opening of Bid (online)	02.08.2023, 1200 Hrs In the Office of Project Officer, MFP Project, Jammu at Forest Complex, Dogra Hall Jammu.

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities, (B.O.Q), Set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website: - www.iktenders.gov.in

No. **09-38/PO/MFP/2023-24** Dated: 17.07.2023 **DIP/J-5303/23** **SD/ (SURESH KUMAR SHARMA) SFS PROJECT OFFICER, MFP PROJECT, JAMMU**

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER PMGSY JKRRDA JAMMU

Phone No.: 0191-2470284, Fax No. : 0191-2479335 E-mail: cepmgsyjammu@gmail.com

Sub- Change of critical dates of bids / extension of Notice Inviting Tenders. Ref- This office e-NIT No. CEJ/PMGSY/739 of 2023-24 dated 23-06-2023 issued vide endorsement No- CEJ/PMGSY/5593-5667 dated 23-06-2023.

CORRIGENDUM

Due to nil response, the critical dates of above mentioned NIT have been changed as per details given below:-

S.No	Particular	Original date	Revised date
1	Closing date of down loading bidding documents.	15-07-2023 (05.00 PM)	24-07-2023 (05.00 PM)
2	Dead line for submission of bids in electronic format on the web site.	15-07-2023 (05.00 PM)	24-07-2023 (05.00 PM)
3	Time and date of opening of received bids on the website.	18-07-2023 (11.00 AM)	26-07-2023 (11.00 AM)

Rest all other terms and conditions will remain same as already advertised. GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

No.-CEJ/PMGSY/ 7741-7815 Dated:- 17-07-2023 **DIP/J-5308/23** **SD/ CHIEF ENGINEER PMGSY (JKRRDA) JAMMU**

Universities should work out a road map for future-ready J&K: Dr Mehta

INAUGURATES 2-DAY TECHNOLOGICAL WORKSHOP FOR ADMINISTRATION & ACADEMIA

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JULY 18: In a 2-day workshop organised by the J&K Planning, Development & Monitoring Department for administration and academia, Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today stressed on the fact that there is absolutely no scope for those who would lag behind in adopting technological advances like Artificial Intelligence, Virtual Reality, Metaverse etc.

The Chief Secretary took this occasion to impress upon the participating Academics and Officers to understand that the future would entirely be driven by those who embrace the changes. He said that there would be a stark contrast between the 'Tech haves' and 'Tech Have-nots' and the later's technological superiority would be a key driver. He asked the Universities of the UT to come up with a roadmap to embrace these changes with openness and rationality.

Dr Mehta made out that every aspect of life be it teaching-learning, administration, entertainment, agriculture, commerce and industry will undergo a sea of change that even can't be imagined today. He reiterated that the technology lag is ill affordable and needs to be addressed before it is too late. He noted that the birth



JAMMU AND KASHMIR

of tools like Metaverse, Block Chain, Augmented & Virtual Reality or for that matter the coming of Extended Reality are going to pose challenges in each facet of our lives.

He added that if we are caught unprepared, we shall have to suffer.

The Chief Secretary maintained that each of the Department or Institution should embed it in their plans to have both short-term, medium term and long-term goals by reimagining their future challenges and corresponding solutions. He cautioned the participants about challenges like Cryptocurrency and crime

world of Dark Net and told them to build safeguards against these right away.

He pointed out that J&K has shown capacity to leapfrog and unshackle itself towards brighter future. He said that in IT sector, the UT has done a commendable job in the last one and a half years and the momentum gave us a happier community excelling in every sphere of life.

Former Secretary Ministry of Corporate Affairs Gol, Anurag Goel who participated as an expert in the Workshop gave a brief about the workshop structure and the process. He complimented the Jammu

and Kashmir administration for achieving remarkable milestones during the last few years.

During his presentation, Mr Goel threw light on different kinds of advancements made world over in the fields of Science and Technology. He exhorted upon all to foresee the future to prepare for it. He observed that the future challenges beyond the near timeframe are quite difficult to fathom.

By showing an array of educational videos and presentations he acquainted the audience about the fact that future is going to be steered by those having hold over the data and digital technology. He emphasized on having own version of Artificial Intelligence for India that would best meet its needs and expectations.

He also talked at length about the future concepts of Education and Educational Institutions with the emergence of concepts like Personalized Learning, Prompt Engineers etc. He asked for readiness for impact of bioengineering and exponential technologies like Quantum Computing, Mixed Reality, Cloud Computing, IoT, Robotics, and Nanotechnology. He asked for having a 'strategic foresight' in order to achieve 'preferred future' in couple of decades from now.

DCDC discusses implementation of "World's Largest Grain Storage Plan" in Samba

JI NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA, JULY 18: The District Cooperative Development Committee (DCDC), which met today here under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner Samba, Abhishek Sharma, discussed revival of the Cooperative sector and action plan for the implementation of the prestigious "World's Largest Grain Storage Plan" in the Cooperative Department.

The Concerned departments were directed to identify land for a modern Grain storage unit in District Samba. The chosen site will align with the "World's Largest Decentralized Grain Storage Project" initiated by the Ministry of Cooperative.

The meeting stressed on putting in extra efforts to establish new Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and raise awareness among farmers and the public in collaboration with NABARD. The DC informed that the PACs will now be eligible for operating retail Petrol and LPG outlets for which a process has been initiated to identify eligible PACs.

Five PACs from District Samba were nominated for Jan Aushadi Kendras to improve access to generic medicines in rural areas. The Deputy Commissioner expressed gratitude to all participants and emphasized the DCDC's commitment to foster cooperative growth and uplift the agricultural landscape in District Samba.

RAC approves 21 cases at Doda

JI NEWS SERVICE



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DODA, JULY 18: District Rent Assessment Committee (RAC) today reviewed and approved 21 rent assessment cases of buildings being used by various government departments here at its meeting chaired by Deputy Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan.

The cases discussed included those of the Health department, Education department, PWD, Youth Services and Sports department, Handloom department, Legal Metrology department, Handicraft department, Agriculture department, and Sheep Husbandry department.

The committee deliberated on determining the appropriate rent for different structures housing the government offices in the district. Deputy Commissioner instructed the committee members to conduct thorough title verifications for all the fresh assessments within a specified timeframe. Additionally, he urged the planning section to incorporate new and revised entries to facilitate better understanding for committee members in future meetings.

Kishtwar: DDMA discusses plan for restoration of damaged bridges

JI NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, JULY 18: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADD) Kishtwar Sham Lal today chaired a meeting of District Disaster Mismanagement Authority here in his office chamber to discuss the action plan for taking up restoration works of bridges under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).

Threaddre discussions were held regarding the restoration work of 8 damaged bridges which were washed away due to recent flash floods in Teshil Bunjiwah of District Kishtwar.

The ADDC directed executing agencies to submit the estimates of all cases (works) at an earliest to his office for grant of necessary approval/clearance.

The meeting was attended by ADC, Underjeet Singh Parihar; ACR, Varunjeet Singh Charak; DFO Kishtwar, Sagar Singh; AO DC Office, Imran Ahmed Kitchloo; Tehsilidar Bunjiwah Irshad Ahmed, besides other concerned officers.

DDC reviews arrangements for Shri Budha Amarnathji Yatra in Rajouri

JI NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, JULY 18: District Development Commissioner of Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, today chaired a meeting to review the arrangements for the annual Shri Budha Amarnathji Yatra.

During the meeting, the DDC exhorted the officers to make the arrangements pertaining to their departments well in time to avoid any inconvenience to the pilgrims. The DDC stressed the need for foolproof security arrangements, adequate medical facilities, and other essential services to be provided to the pilgrims.

The officers were also reminded of the importance of putting all necessary arrangements in place well in advance. The DDC urged them to work diligently and leave no stone unturned in their efforts to make the yatra a fulfilling and memorable experience for everyone who embarks on this spiritual journey.

The Shri Budha Amarnathji Yatra is a highly revered pilgrimage that draws devotees from all over the region. It is a time when the faithful seek spiritual enlightenment and connect with the divine. Ensuring that all arrangements are in place is crucial to the success of the yatra and the safety of the pilgrims.

With the efforts of the officers and the support of the local community, the Shri Budha Amarnathji Yatra is expected to be a fulfilling and memorable experience for all those who undertake it.

Director Horticulture launches Plantation Drive in Dansal

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JULY 18: The Department of Horticulture Jammu is conducting a series of plantation drives in the Sub-tropical areas of Jammu Division to promote plantation of fruit plants in the farmers' fields amid the Rainy season.

In this context, the Director Horticulture Jammu, Ram Sarvak, today started the plantation drive at three different farmers' fields located at Bajalta, Chak-Rakhwala and Ban area of Dansal block. By planting saplings, the director initiated the compact plantation over an area of 50 kanals. Chief Horticulture



Officer Jammu, Ashwani Sharma, DLSMS Jammu, Sandeep Gupta, Horticulture Development Officer, Sandeep Sharma and a large number of farmers of the

area were present. During the programme, the Director stressed the need to encourage High Density Plantation in the area. He said

that the rainy season is very suitable for new plantations especially in the kandi area and the farmers should adopt a cluster approach to establish new orchards and take benefit of all the departmental schemes.

Awareness cum interaction programme was also conducted at Ban, where a large gathering of farmers including women and Sarpanch of the panchayat Ban, Rajinder Singh were present.

During the interaction with the farmers, the Director briefed them about the recently launched Holistic Agriculture Development Programme providing incentives / assistance to the farming community to enhance

their income. He discussed in detail the scope of HADP and sensitized the gathering about the main components of the programme viz: DAKSH- Learning Management System related to skill development, SATHI-Dashboard to apply online for different Government schemes, etc. The Director urged the farmers to come forward, associate with the horticulture department and avail the benefits of protected cultivation, Water harvesting tanks, Drip irrigation, Custom Hiring Centres, Vermicompost units, Strawberry plantation, Tools / implements etc. for upliftment of their socio-economic status.

Shivkhori Shravan Mahotsav Play on life lessons, teachings of Lord Shiva presented at Ransoo

JI NEWS SERVICE

REASI, JULY 18: On the second Monday of Shivkhori Shravan Mahotsav, the artists from Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art Culture and Languages presented a play on the life lessons and teachings of Lord Shiva here at Ransoo.

District Development Council Member Pouni, Rita Devi was the chief guest on the occasion. To create a memorable experience for pilgrims and visitors, a variety of events have been scheduled for each Monday of the Shravan month as a part of Shivkhori Mahotsav. These activities encompass bhajan concerts, stage performances, Katha and sermons, bhajan competitions, screenings of movies and documentaries, art competitions and exhibitions, as well as religious ceremonies.

With the aim to promote the art and culture of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Academy of Art Culture and Languages presented a colourful cultural programme on the second Monday of Shivkhori Shravan Mahotsav including a play on the teachings of Lord Shiva.

Speaking on the occasion, District Development Council Member, Rita Devi said the religious Mahotsav is being jointly organized by District Administration, Reasi, Shiv Khori Shrine Board and Tourism Department.

Congratulating the people on the occasion, the DDC member said that the administration is taking far reaching steps to promote tourism in Reasi and adjoining areas by creating necessary infrastructure including development of Shiv Khori and other heritage spots in the district to attract tourists.

Additional District Development Commissioner, Jyoti Slathia stressed upon the need to develop Ransoo town in a planned manner to attract Vaishno Devi pilgrims.

95th ICAR day celebration and Technology demonstration concludes at KVK Samba

JI NEWS SERVICE



SAMBA, JULY 18: Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Samba of Shri-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Jammu today concluded 3-day celebrations of 95th ICAR day by organizing technology demonstrations from 16th-18th July, 2023. More than 300 farmers/farm women enthusiastically participated in these programmes held at KVK premises under the leadership of Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu.

The day event witnessed a display of novel and innovative technologies including specimens, exhibits and agricultural tools and implements for the farmers. The concluding day of 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 enhancing 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 elaborated upon the various initiatives undertaken by the KVK during the last 03 days like organization of training and awareness programmes, demonstration on processing and value addition of kandi fruits like mango, citrus fruits, kisan goshtis, exhibition of the latest technologies for the benefit of the farmers. A series of the expert lectures were also delivered by the KVK scientists for the farming community of the Samba district.

Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Senior Scientist (Horticulture) discussed in detail about 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) elaborated upon the various aspects of farm mechanization in the field of agriculture like tractors, tillers, farm machinery banks, custom hiring centers, innovative farm tools and their role in reducing the farm drudgery to a greater extent. Dr. Saurav Gupta, Scientist (Entomology) gave detailed information 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 insects -pests and diseases of Chickpea through various innovative farming techniques. Dr. Vijay Kumar Sharma, Scientist (Animal Sciences) elaborated upon the role of livestock in improving the livelihood security of the farmers and different initiatives undertaken 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. Aamir Malik; JEs and other field staff, Rawal Hussain Chemist District Water Testing Lab and his team demonstrated FTK and trained Paani Samiti members and about 250 other participants present over there. The programme concluded with felicitation of best performing stakeholders including Chairman Paani Samiti, Best Engineer and Best Chemist.

Handholding Session: DJJM Doda imparts training on water testing using FTK

JI NEWS SERVICE

DODA, JULY 18: Mission Directorate Jal Jeevan Mission J&K in collaboration with District Jal Jeevan Mission Doda on Tuesday organized a Handholding Session here in the conference Hall of DC Office and imparted Training to participants in water testing by using Field Testing Kit. The event witnessed active participation of Paani Samiti members, Anganwadi workers, Asha Workers, Women FTK users, Women Self Help Groups, Teachers and PRIs. In all, about 250 stakeholders participated in the event. District Development Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan was the chief guest. At the onset of the programme, IEC Coordinator DPMU, Vivek Singh Jamwal welcomed the participants and briefed them about the JJM Mission and highlighted the role and responsibilities of Paani Samitis, importance of FTK in analysing and maintaining water resources and its quality. Addressing the audience, the DDC stressed on the role and the support of PRIs particularly Paani Samitis in the effective implementation of JJM Schemes.

"Their cooperation will greatly help in early completion of all the schemes under JJM, a flagship programme of the Government of India to provide HAR GHAR NAAL SE JAL", he said. The other prominent guests included Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE), Subash Chander Gupta; AEE, Doda East, Arshad Ahmed; AEE Doda West, Akhilesh Gupta; AE DPMU, Er

With the efforts of the officers and the support of the local community, the Shri Budha Amarnathji Yatra is expected to be a fulfilling and memorable experience for all those who undertake it.