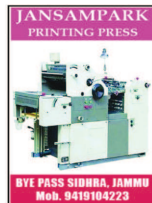


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Shri Amarnathji Yatra Surpasses Previous Year's Numbers: A Successful Pilgrimage Amidst Unity and Praise

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 27

The revered Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2023 has achieved a momentous milestone, surpassing the total number of pilgrims from the previous year. This year's Yatra has been distinguished by its seamless arrangements,

unwavering services, and meticulous management, garnering widespread acclaim and nurturing a sense of harmony among people hailing from diverse backgrounds.

Today a total of 9,150 yatries have had the privilege of performing darshan at the sacred Holy Cave, contributing to

the cumulative figure of 369,288. This surpasses last year's total of 365,721, signaling a significant increase in the number of devotees undertaking this holy pilgrimage.

The resounding success of Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2023 can be primarily attributed to the impeccable arrange-

ments orchestrated by the administration. Every facet of the Yatra, from the provision of langar services to healthcare facilities, sanitation, transportation, and security measures, has been meticulously managed to ensure unparalleled convenience for the pilgrims. The seamless execution of

these arrangements has led to a surge in the influx of devotees who are eager to embark on the spiritually enriching journey, and they have expressed their deep appreciation for the well-coordinated efforts.

Beyond the spiritual significance, the Yatra has also witnessed the arrival

of distinguished personalities from various walks of life, renowned badminton player Saina Nehwal, and Bollywood actress Sara Ali Khan. This diverse gathering serves as a testament to the universal appeal of the Amarnath Yatra, attracting individuals from all corners of the globe, united in their

reverence for this sacred pilgrimage.

The Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2023 has also witnessed a significant increase in the number of foreign pilgrims visiting the holy shrine. The pilgrimage's allure extends beyond national boundaries, drawing people from all over the world to

partake in this spiritually enriching experience.

The pilgrims have wholeheartedly lauded the administration's tireless efforts in ensuring a smooth and hassle-free journey. The efficient organization of the Yatra has provided them with a sense of comfort

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Peace is prevailing, nightlife has returned and people are living freely: Lt Governor

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 27

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha attended the National Convention on "Sufism: A Bridge Between Communities", in Srinagar, today.

Sh Arif Mohammed Khan, Governor of Kerala presided over the conference organised by Cluster University of Srinagar in collaboration with J&K Academy of Arts, Culture and Languages.

Governor of Kerala, Sh Arif Mohammed Khan, in his address, remembered the invaluable contributions of Lal Ded, Nund Rishi, Sufis and Saints from Jammu & Kashmir in strengthening the spirit of unity and oneness.



Their teachings and writings will continue to be the beacon of light for humanity, the Governor of Kerala said.

Our ancient heritage teaches us peace, love and humanity. The people of all religions, all sects are one family. The continuity of our culture, values, tra-

ditions is the biggest power of India that empowers our great nation to flourish, he added.

In his address on the occasion, the Lt Governor Shri Manoj Sinha highlighted the influence of Sufism in the culture and traditions of Jammu Kashmir.

"Harmonious relationship among all sects, individuals and relationship with the whole existence without distinction is real Sufism. It is way of life that promotes and propagates ideals of communal harmony, love and peace among the people," the Lt Governor observed.

J&K is the land of Rishis and Sufis. It is the land which respects all spiritual and religious streams. Those who had created trouble in this paradise have been decimated, and supporters of terrorism and separatism have been neutralized to establish peace and harmony in the society, the Lt Governor said. At the Convention, the Lt Governor

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Repair work to affect supply to Jammu city areas fed by sitlee water plant

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 27

In view of Maintenance works at Sitlee Water Treatment Plant, the water supply to some parts of Jammu would be affected on July 29 and July 30, 2023.

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mechanical Division North Jammu has informed the public that the water supply to Lohar and Manda Reservoirs shall remain partially affected on July 29, 2023 and July 30, 2023, due to some urgent electrical maintenance works by JPDCL at Intakes, Sitlee.

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Four family members of army personnel went missing from Rajouri, traced in Haridwar

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 27

Four members of an army personnel's family went missing from Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district and were later traced in Uttar Pradesh's Haridwar following a search operation by police, officials said.

All four persons were reunited with the family in Rajouri on Thursday, they said.

A team of police received information that family members of a serving army personnel

i.e. his wife and three children had gone missing from their house in Rajouri on July 23, police said.

A team headed by Deputy Superintendent of Police Mudasir Hussain led the search operation, they said.

After registration of a missing report, the police team conducted searches and finally managed to trace the missing family members from Haridwar in UP, they said.

Police said they have now been reunited with the family.

PM targets opposition, says 'corrupt and dynasts' have changed their Jamaat's name

AGENCIES
RAJKOT, JUL 27

In an apparent jibe at the new opposition bloc 'INDIA', Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said though "corrupt and dynast" people have changed the name of their jamaat (community), their behaviour and goals remain the same, and added they are angry as dreams of common people are being fulfilled under his government.

The PM, on a two-day Gujarat visit, launched the fresh attack on the 26-party opposition alliance while addressing a huge gathering at the Race Course Ground in Rajkot after inaugurating an international airport and various other



development projects for the city. "It is natural for some people to get upset when the country is making progress. Those who kept people deprived (of development) and never had any concerns for the needs and aspirations of our

citizens are now angry because dreams of common people are now being fulfilled," Modi said. The PM accused the opposition of practicing double standards while raising issues related to

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Amarnath Yatra | Fresh batch of 3111 pilgrims leave from Jammu base camp

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 27

A fresh batch of 3111 pilgrims amidst the chants of 'Bam Bam Bhole' on Thursday left from Bhagwati Nagar Base camp here for Shri Amarnath Cave Shrine in South Kashmir Himalayas.

An official said that 3111



Pilgrims left the base camp in a convoy of 124 vehicles. A group of 2154 pilgrims (1686 males, 424 females,

six children and 47 sadhus) left for Pahalgam in a convoy of 83 vehicles.

For Baltal, 907 pilgrims comprising 616 males, 336 females and five children left in a convoy of 41 vehicles amid tight security arrangements.

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

Kashmiri Pandit organisation files application in SC supporting abrogation of Article 370

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 27

An organisation representing Kashmiri Pandits and a social activist on Thursday moved the Supreme Court filing intervention application in the plea challenging the abrogation of Article 370, while supporting the August 5, 2019 decision of the Central government.

Youth 4 Panun Kashmir, through its Organising Secretary, Vithal Chowdhary and Virinder Kaul, a Kashmiri Pandit and a social activist, filed intervention application seeking to be heard in the case.

The applications filed through advocate Siddharth Praveen Acharya sought dismissal of the pleas



challenging Article 370 and the bifurcation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union territories.

The application submitted that Article 370 provided the cover for the erstwhile State government "to commit the greatest miscarriage of justice namely the genocide and ethnic cleansing of Kashmiri

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Holiday on account of Ashoora postponed

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUG 7

The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Thursday postponed the holiday on account of Ashoora.

In partial modification of Government order No. 1596-JK(GAD) of 2022 dated. 30-12-2022 and Government order No. 1597-JK(GAD) of 2022, Dated. 30-12-2022, it is hereby ordered that the holiday on account of "Ashoora" shall now be observed on 29th of July, (203 (Saturday) instead of 28th July, 2023 (Friday).

Manipur UPSC centre candidates given choice to choose another centre: Dr Jitendra Singh

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 27

As a special consideration, Manipur Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Centre candidates have been given the choice to choose another Centre, in view of the situation prevailing there.

This announcement was made by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh in reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha today.

The Minister further informed that UPSC has granted option to the candidates, who had opted Imphal as a Centre, to change and appear in any of the Centres, viz., Aizawl in neighbouring Mizoram, Delhi, Dispur, Jorhat, Kohima, Kolkata and Shillong.

Later, speaking to media on the sidelines of a programme, Dr Jiten-



dra Singh elaborated on his parliamentary reply saying, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is extremely sensitive to the concerns of the youth and therefore, this government is committed to do everything possible to ensure that no youth anywhere in the country is allowed to suffer disadvantage or injustice on account of incompatible circumstances there.

Dr Jitendra Singh informed that this option was provided in the Civil Services (Preliminary) Exami-

nation, 2023 (held on 28.05.2023) and in the Recruitment Tests for Accounts Officer/ Enforcement Officer and Assistant Provident Fund Commissioner (APFO) in the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) (held on 02.07.2023).

Dr Jitendra Singh also said that Staff Selection Commission has three (3) centres viz, Imphal, Churachandpur and Ukhrul for conducting various exams in Manipur. However, for Multi-Tasking (Non-Tech.) Staff and Havaldar (CBIC & CBN) Examination, 2022, the candidates of Manipur were provided with alternative options of centres, such as Aizawl, Kohima etc. in the North-East. Further, candidates were also given options for change of centre of their preference anywhere in India.

In reply to another question in the same House, the Minister revealed that the Government

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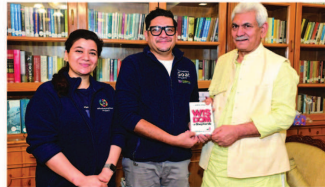
Former Minister, Founder of Pashmina Goat Project call on Lt Governor

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 27

Sukhnandan Choudhary, former Minister called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan today.

The former Minister discussed with the Lt Governor various issues of public importance.

Babar Afzal, founder, Pashmina Goat Project (StartUp) and Dr Henna Anjum, co-founder, also



called on Lt Governor and shared the journey from being a Silicon Valley

Techie to promoting the authentic Pashmina ecosystem and raising aware-

ness among the skilled Pashmina artisans and communities. Sh Babar presented his book "Wisdom of Shepherds for Individuals & Startups" to the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor appreciated the endeavours of Sh Babar and Dr Henna. He assured them of all support and assistance from the UT Administration in furthering their efforts of promoting Pashmina Industry.

Aakash BYJU'S launches its biggest and most awaited National Talent Hunt Exam-023

Offers Up to 100% Scholarship and Cash Awards to Class VII-XII Students



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 27: Aakash BYJU'S, the national leader in test preparatory services, today unveiled the 14th edition of its popular and widely sought-after ANTHE (Aakash National Talent Hunt Exam) 2023. The flagship annual scholarship exam presents the chance for Class VII-XII students to unleash their potential with up to 100% scholarships and remarkable cash awards. Empowering young minds to soar towards their dreams of a promising future in medicine or engineering, ANTHE 2023 promises to be an extraordinary gateway to success. ANTHE scholarship recipients can enroll in Aakash and receive expert guidance and mentorship to prepare for various exams, including NEET, JEE, state CETs, School/Board exams, and competitive scholarships like NISE and Olympiads. An exciting addition for students this

year is the chance for 100 students from various classes to win a 5-day all-expenses paid trip to a National Science Expedition. Over the years, ANTHE has produced notable achievers, with several students from Aakash BYJU'S emerging as top rankers in exams like NEET (UG) and JEE (Advanced). A number of Aakashians who started their educational journey at Aakash with ANTHE, including Kaustav Bauri (AIR 3), Dhruv Advani (AIR 5), and Surya Siddharth N (AIR 6), became Champions in NEET (UG) 2023. Similarly, Aditya Neeraj (AIR 27) and Aakash Gupta (AIR 28), who also commenced their journey with ANTHE, attained commendable positions in JEE (Advanced) 2023. Commenting on ANTHE 2023, Mr. Abhishek Maheshwari, CEO, Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), said, "ANTHE has been the catalyst

in fulfilling the aspirations of lakhs of students by bridging the gap between dreams and capabilities. Since its inception in 2010, we have strived to extend our coaching opportunities to deserving students nationwide, breaking barriers of location. ANTHE opens doors for students to prepare for NEET and IIT-JEE exams at their own pace, wherever they may be. We anticipate strong participation in ANTHE 2023 and remain steadfast in our mission of propelling students closer to a promising future." ANTHE 2023 will take place from October 7-15, 2023, in both online and offline modes across 26 states and union territories in India. In addition to scholarships of up to 100%, top scorers will also receive cash awards. ANTHE online will be held between 10:00 AM - 09:00 PM during all exam days, while the offline exams will be conducted on October 8 and 15, 2023 in two shifts.

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM and 04:00 PM - 05:00 PM at all 315+ centers of Aakash BYJU'S across the country. Students can choose a one-hour slot convenient to them. ANTHE will be a one-hour test carrying a total of 90 marks and comprising 40 multiple-choice questions based on the grade and stream aspirations of students. For Class VII-IX students, the questions will cover subjects such as Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics and Mental Ability. For Class X students aspiring for medical education, the questions will cover Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Mental Ability, while for engineering aspirants of the same class, the questions will cover Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Mental Ability. Similarly, for Class XI-XII students who aim for NEET, questions will cover Physics, Chemistry, Botany and Zoology, while for engineering aspirants they will cover Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics. The last date for submitting the enrollment form for ANTHE 2023 is three days before the commencement of the online exam and seven days before the offline exam. The exam fee is INR 100 for offline mode and free for online mode. Results for ANTHE 2023 will be declared on October 27, 2023, for Class X students, November 03, 2023, for Class VII to IX, and November 08, 2023, for Class XI and XII students.

Delegation of CCI call on newly appointed Principal GMC



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 27: A delegation of Chamber of Commerce & Industry led by its President Sh. Arun Gupta and accompanied by Sh. Anil Gupta, Sr. Vice President, Sh. Rajeev Gupta, Jr. Vice President, Sh. Rajesh Gupta, Secretary and Sh. Rajesh Gupta, Treasurer met the newly appointed Principal of Medical

College Jammu. Sh. Arun Gupta congratulated the newly appointed Principal and apprised him that the people of Jammu have high hopes from him as he is already serving the people of Jammu and the people expect the best from him as the Principal of Medical College Jammu. Arun Gupta acknowledged that the emergency services of Medical College are working much above

their installed capacity but hope that under his guidance and leadership the emergency services shall be further streamlined. Arun Gupta requested the Principal Government Medical College that similar emergency services should be started in Gandhi Nagar and Sarwal Hospital to minimize the load on the Government Medical College. He also requested that

HDU (High dependency Unit) be started in Gandhi Nagar and Sarwal hospitals so that the patients from the different areas can get the emergency services in a better way in these Hospitals also. He further said that as per the reports from different sectors, the nursing staff needs to be suitably increased to provide better services to the patients as are being provided in the private hospitals.

The Principal Government Medical College assured that he will definitely look into the suggestions made by the Chamber and ensure that better services are provided to the patients in the emergency wards and to cater the ever increasing rush of the patients in the emergency wards and if the need arises the emergency wards will be further augmented.

NSS Volunteer of GDC Thannamandi Clinched 3rd Position in (NIC) at IGU Haryana

JJ NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, JUL 27: Adnan Aqib Student of B. Sc Semester 5th and NSS Volunteer of GDC Thannamandi participated in NSS National Integration Camp at Indira Gandhi University Meerpur, Rewari Haryana organized by Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports Govt. of India in collaboration with Directorate of Higher Education Haryana from 18th to 24th July 2023. Among 200 volunteers of 17 states only 4 volunteers were selected from Jammu & Kashmir by conducting an interview in the office of NSS Coordinator, University of Jammu.

The volunteers participated in various activities during the camp such as Poster Making, Slogan Writing,



Extempore Speech Competition etc along with this they also presented their culture and interacted with the volunteers of other states. In the Extempore Speech Competition Mr.

Adnan Aqib NSS Volunteer of the college bagged 3rd position.

Principal of the College Prof. (Dr) Farooq Ahmed congratulated him and also highlighted his contribution in the NSS Unit and in Research Wing of the College as he had got 2nd Position in Oral Paper Presentation in National Level Science Conference which was held by University of Jammu. He also lauded the efforts of NSS Unit of the College and NSS Programme Officer Prof. Muhammad Shoket for providing such type of environment and opportunities to the volunteers.

He added that on the occasion of Annual Day Celebration of the College such students and volunteers shall be felicitated with cash prize and mementos.

Gujjar-Bakerwal reservation remains untouched: Vibodh Gupta

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 27: A vibrant group of Pahari youth called upon BJP J&K General Secretary and Former MLC, Vibodh Gupta, to express their heartfelt gratitude and celebrate the historic introduction of the Bill in the Parliament, granting Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to the marginalised Pahari Tribe. The youth extended their thanks to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Home Minister Amit Shah, Hon'ble LG Manoj Sinha and Bjp state president for their unwavering efforts and dedication to the cause of the Pahari Tribe.

During the celebratory gathering, Vibodh graciously exchanged sweets with the young members of the Pahari Tribe, wishing them a glorious future ahead. Emphasising on Modi government policy of



Sabak Sath, Sabka Vikas, Vibodh maintained that the ten percent reservation already granted to the Gujjars and Bakerwals in Government jobs and educational institutions in Jammu and Kashmir would remain untouched, while ensuring a separate reservation for the Pahari Kabilia and their harmony and other deserving communities.

"Gujars, Bakarwals, and Pahari are the pride of Jammu and Kashmir, and their harmony is of utmost importance

for the holistic development of Rajouri-Poonch," stated Vibodh. He issued a strong caution against any attempts to disrupt this harmony and unity between the communities, urging everyone to work together for the collective progress and prosperity of the area. Vibodh took this opportunity to encourage the youth of the Pahari Tribe to seize the moment and utilize the newfound opportunities that come with the ST status. He believes that their

potential and talent can bring laurels not only for the Pahari Tribe but also for the entire nation. The introduction of the Bill for ST status marks a significant milestone in the journey of the Pahari Tribe towards inclusivity and empowerment. Prominent youth present on the occasion were Waqar Malik, Waqar Ahmed, Mohd Yousif Khan, Mohd Ayaz ul Rehman, Mushtaq Ahmed, Mohd Anis, Mohd Saqib and Sakander Hayat.

Shiv Sena leaders urges Uddhav Thackeray, "INDIA" Alliance to raise voice on J&K issues



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 27: Leaders of Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir Unit have made an earnest appeal to the Party Chief, Uddhav Thackeray and the united platform "INDIA" to raise its voice for restoring democracy, reinstating statehood, safeguarding the rights of Kashmiri Hindus, PoJK displaced persons and

urged the "INDIA" delegation to visit Jammu and Kashmir to assess the

ground realities. The appeal was made on the occasion of the birthday celebration of Uddhav Thackeray, where a Haven and Bhandara were organized at the Jammu Party Office and Sidco Chowk, Bari Brahmana.

During his address, Manish Sahni, President Shiv Sena (UBT) J&K urged the "INDIA" delegation through their Party National President Uddhav Thackeray to visit Jammu and Kashmir and know the ground realities and

raised its voice for restoring democracy, statehood, safeguarding the rights of Kashmiri Hindus, PoJK displaced persons, and the rights of the locals. Sahni said that those who showed the dream of united India and Jammu Kashmir divided Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh into two parts. A conspiracy is being hatched to destroy our culture and identity. The rights of the sons of the land are being continuously violated. Jammu and Kashmir has

been under the President and Lieutenant Governor's rule for more than the last 5 years.

Sahni sarcastically said that President's rule is not being imposed in Manipur and it is not being removed from Jammu and Kashmir.

Sahni appealed to organize the upcoming INDIA alliance meeting in Jammu and Kashmir after Mumbai. Which will be organized jointly by all the parties of Jammu and Kashmir involved in this alliance.

He said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir now place their hopes on the newly formed "INDIA" alliance.

On this occasion, President Women's Wing Meenakshi Chhibber, General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Chairman Rakesh Gupta, Vice President Sanjeev Kohli, Balwant Singh, Sandeep Bhagat, Singh Kamgaur Wing Raj Singh, Shashi Pal, Pawan Singh, Mangru Ram, Kashmir Singh, Rahul, Jagbir Singh, Neelam Rani, Sunny Kumar, Veer Singh and many others were present.

EPFO, PHDCCI-J, DLC organises an Interactive Session & Awareness Program on EPFO Services

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 27: EPFO in association with PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry (PHDCCI) Jammu and Dogra Law College organized an Interactive Session & Awareness Program on EPFO Services and EPF & MP Act. Mr Rizwan Uddin, PF Commissioner, J & K and Ladakh was the Chief Guest & Mr Rahul Sahai Chair PHDCCI Jammu was the Guest Of Honor of the Session. While addressing the participants Mr Razwan thanked PHDCCI Jammu Chapter and Dogra Law College for collaborating and organizing this awareness session. Mr Rizwan briefed the participants about the schemes of EPFO. He shared details about the benefits of Employees Provident Fund (EPF).

Rizwan PF Commissioner, J & K and Ladakh said that EPF is very important for all the employees and all employees should become the members of EPF. This is a source of Social Security for them he added. Mr Rizwan answered several questions raised by the participants. He also discussed various concerns of the participants and on spot directed his office to get those solved. Mr Rizwan said that we should create more awareness about EPF among the masses which will help them in future if any misfortune event happens. He said that his office is always open for any kind of

grievances to be resolved.

Rahul Sahai, Chair PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry was the Guest of Honor of the session. Mr Sahai in his address said that, this event which is organized by the EPFO, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) & Dogra Educational trust, reflects our commitment in promoting Indian industry, trade, and Entrepreneurship.

He said that, the EPF and MP Act stand as significant labor legislation in India, crafted with the goal of providing social security and financial stability to employees. Administered by the EPFO under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, the Act ensures a safety net for employees during emergencies and fosters a culture of savings, enabling them to maintain a certain standard of living even after retirement.

Sahai said that EPF is not merely a tax-saving instrument; it is a valuable benefit scheme for salaried individuals, assuring security and stability for both the employee and their family in their golden years. The Act mandates a compulsory contributory fund to secure an employee future post-retirement or support their dependents in case of untimely demise. He shared about the benefits of EPF to Employees like Financial Security, Long-Term Savings, Tax Benefits, Withdrawal Options, Interest

Earnings, Social Security.

For Employers benefit he said that it helps Employer in various ways like Employee Attraction and Retention, Tax Savings, Motivated Workforce, Contributing to Employee Welfare, Reduced Payroll Burden, Compliance with Labour Laws, Positive Corporate Image. Bipin Kumar, District Nodal Officer, EPFO Jammu, gave a detailed Presentation on EPFO Services and Schemes.

Samrdev Singh Charak, Co Chair, PHDCCI Jammu and Secretary, Dogra Educational Trust presented Vote of Thanks and said it's a pleasure to host all and specially Mr Rizwan and I am delighted to see his enthusiasm about sharing knowledge and assured that these kind of programs would be regularly hosted. He also applauded amongst employees and employers to take maximum benefit of EPF schemes. He thanked Mr Rizwan & Mr Rahul Sahai hosting the program and assured full support.

The Session was moderated by Ms Parema Bakshi, Lecturer, Dogra Law College. Dr Darshana Sharma, Director Dogra Group of Colleges, Dr Avdhesh Pratap, Principal, Dogra Law College and Mr Amarpreet Singh, Resident Officer PHDCCI Jammu were also present in the Session. The session was well attended by representatives of various industrial units, law students and faculty of Dogra Law College.

Children with Special Needs empowered with required Aids & Appliances: Deep Raj



J I NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, JUL 27 : Directorate of Samagra Shiksha J&K in collaboration with Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India ALIMCO is all set to organize distribution camps in all the Districts across UT of J&K for the distribution of Aids & Appliances among the Children with Special Needs CWSN. The first such distribution camp was inaugurated today by the Project Director Samagra Shiksha, Deep Raj at Govt HSS Kothibagh in presence of Chief Education Officer Srinagar Shabir Hussain Anjum Raja Dy CEO Nusrat Bukhari Principal, Mr Imran Bukhari Assistant Coordinator & other officers officials Project Director Samagra Shiksha, Deep Raj in his address said that to ensure the equitable and inclusive education in line with the NEP 2020 Samagra Shiksha under the aegis of School Education Department is working tirelessly for providing Quality Education to the Children with Special needs. He informed that, 21000 Children with Special Needs have been identified, out of which 18660 Students have been enrolled in various Schools

across the UT. During the year 2022-23, 188 Camps were organised in various Districts, to identify those Children, who are in need of Aids & appliances for making their life easy to some extent, he said. He further said that 4990 CWSNs will be empowered with different Aids & Appliances and the distribution has been started in 5 districts of Kashmir Division* (Anantnag, Budgam, Ganderbal, Kulgam, Pulwama and Srinagar and in the remaining five districts the same will be started by tomorrow

He further told that, in Jammu Division, the distribution camps shall be organised w.e.f 2nd of August 2023 and shall culminate on 14th of August 2023 while interacting with the Children with Special Needs, Project Director Samagra Shiksha said that, the specially abled children are the lucky ones and closer to God.

PD Samagra also highlighted the working of Samagra Shiksha and said that, every year Rs. 1.70 Crores is provided to CWSN, for as stipend*, Braille Books, Free Uniforms and Free Text Books are also provided to the Children in various Schools across the UT. He informed that, *Principal Secretary, School Education

Department Alok Kumar, always treat the Specially abled children as Specially Talented Children, who to have all potential, arts and ways to perform not only in their Schools but also on the stage*. He said that, School Education Department shall always stand with the CWSN and for which necessary upgradation of Infrastructure like Ramps and CWSN Toilets (Specially Designed) are made available in various Schools. More than 400 CWSN Toilets have been constructed and 44 Resource rooms are functional, he said. He also appreciated the efforts of the State Coordinator Vijay Sharma, Chief Education Officer, Principal GHSS Kothibagh, Assistant Coordinator, Special Educators/ Resource Persons and representatives from ALIMCO Foundation, who are working for the welfare of Children with Special needs and putting their personal efforts & remained instrumental.

He expressed his gratitude for being part of the noble mission and assured every possible assistance by the Directorate of Samagra Shiksha to these Children During the first day of the event, 70 differently abled children were provided relevant aids and appliances as per need already assessed by team of professionals and experts from ALIMCO in the previously organised assessment camps.

The aids and appliances include Tricycle conventional, wheel chairs folding (Child Size Wheel Chairs folding Adult Size CP Chairs MR kits Digital type hearing aids, Brail kits Sugumya cane, Daisy player Crutch elbow adjustable, Rollators size 1 and 2, AFO II and III KAFO I and II and other appliances for visually impaired students. Project Director showered his blessings to all the 70 Children who attended the camp and asked them, to work hard and achieve the set goals

CUJ Commemorates 3rd Anniversary of NEP 2020



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 27: Central University of Jammu (CUJ) celebrated the momentous occasion of three years of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Today CUJ organised a press conference in Brigadier Rajinder Singh Auditorium by addressing the media on successful completion of 3 years of NEP 2020. The press conference was addressed by the Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, CUJ, Dr. J. N. Balia, Head, Department of Educational Studies, Dr. Ritu Bakshi, Dean Students' Welfare, and Prof. Suram Singh, Controller of Examination. The programme was conducted as part of Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam.

Addressing the media, Prof. Jain said that NEP 2020 mainly envisions to instill in learners a deep sense of pride in being Indian, not just in thought but also in spirit, intellect, and deeds. It also aims to help students develop knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes that support their commitment to upholding human rights, promoting sustainable living,

and other sustainable goals. He further talked about the various steps and reforms taken in CUJ to bring the desired transformation in higher education like revamping the curricular practices by focusing on outcome-based curricular structures, holistic education through multidisciplinary approaches, initiation of start-up policy etc.

He added that all efforts are being made to equip the students with 21st century skills like critical thinking, decision making, problem-solving etc. to prepare them for various opportunities across the nation and abroad as envisioned in NEP 2020. The Vice Chancellor also highlighted the goal of achieving institutional excellence in line with NEP 2020, which goes beyond disciplinary lines and envisions inter- and trans-disciplinary teaching and research.

Dr. J.N. Balia Head, Department of Educational Studies said that the CUJ is working tirelessly for the effective implementation of the policy by organizing a series of interactive academic programs, workshops, seminars/webinars, panel discussions to

create awareness and sharing insights to contribute in making education Bharat-centric and bringing qualitative improvement by suggesting a road map for effective implementation of the policy.

Dr. Ritu Bakshi, Dean Students Welfare in her address shared that Central university of Jammu is taking all the steps to involve the students in the effective implementation of NEP 2020 by organising various awareness programs, workshops, hands-on training of Academic Bank of Credits, awareness on multiple entry-exit system. She further talked about the relevance of Indian Knowledge System in the contemporary times and informed that the university is working for the curriculum integration of IKS-based courses, skills, subjects etc. that empowers the learners with varied capacities.

She opined that this transformative policy acts as a catalyst not only in inculcating the requisite skills and talents rooted in the Indian ethos and culture but also in restoration and transmission of Indian cultural heritage and glory of India as Vishwaguru in context of knowledge. Prof. Suram Singh while providing worthwhile insights stressed upon various curriculum and pedagogical aspects like holistic assessment of learners, flexibility in examinations, e-assessment portal etc. He further highlighted the successful implementation of Learning Management System, MOODLE to monitor the learners' performance, e-content delivery and enhance learning outcomes in Central University of Jammu.

The dignitaries also responded to the queries of the journalists.

Chandi Mata Jagran held at Bakshi Nagar



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 27 : Residents of Gurba, Bakshi Nagar held a two day long Jagran of Chandi Mata in which Hawan, Langar and Jagran continued

for two days. The trust made by locals of the area hold this pious event every year in the holy Sawan Maas. Former Minister Sat Sharma (CA) graced the occasion by his presence. Vishu Gupta, a Social worker along with his

team organizes this Jagran every year. Speaking on the occasion, Sat Sharma said that it is indeed a great honour for me that residents of the area have bestowed me the opportunity to perform Aarti at Hawan.

Appreciating the efforts of the organizers, Sat Sharma said that this is a very pious occasion as Sawan Maas is going on and such a talented team of youngsters have taken an initiative to promote the things of religious importance and they must be encouraged by all so that they can take up their work to great heights which will give a boost to our culture as well, he added.

Ravi Kant Sharma, Atul Bakshi, Kushant Daffara and several others were also present on the occasion.

Joint Protest held at Hari Singh Park by OBC



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 27 : In a joint Protest was held by O.B.C. Mahasabha, All India Backward Classes Federation and All J&K Welfare forum of Srinagar and Presidents of different castes and communities under the banner of O.B.C. Adhikar Tringa Yatra here today at Hari Singh Park, Jammu . In this Protest Sh.Bansi Lal Choudhary Convener O.B.C Mahasabha criticised the discriminatory behaviour of Sh.Narinder Modi,Prime Minister of India,Sh.Amit Shah,Home Minister of India , giving only Lollipop to O.B.C/ Changing of Nomenclature only During the Protest Sh.Kasturi Lal Basotra,Chairman said that instead of implementing 27% reservation

in JK-UT Govt.services as per Supreme of India Judgment dt.16.11.1992 on Mandal commission report and in Panchayati Raj system and in Urban Local Bodies (as of Article 243D(6 and 243T-6) only changing of nomenclature is only a lollipop. There is no change in reservation which is 4% and will remain as 4% after the change of Nomenclature. We also oppose the inclusion of Landlords castes in the state lists of obc as notified by the JK-UT Govt. vide S.O.-537 dt.19.10.2022

Further during the protest Sh.Arijit Kumar, Youth leader of O.B.C Mahasabha that the Modi Govt. constituted a SOCIALLY & EDUCATIONALLY BACKWARD CLASSES COMMISSION in March 2020 by appointing a 92 year old Justice

Sh.G.D.Sharma as its Chairman and Two Non-O.B.C members under article 340 of Indian constitution for inclusion & Exclusion of Mandal Commission identified castes and communities in the JK-UT lists of SOCIALLY & EDUCATIONALLY BACKWARD CLASSES. The Name of this commission is BACKWARD CLASSES COMMISSION but Modi Govt. constituted with the NON-OBC's Chairman and its members only with the intention to dilute the OBC/ OBC reservation by inducting the upper castes/classes and other castes as mentioned in S.O.-537 dt.19.10.2022 of JK-UT Govt. who not KAMEENS but landlords and are not in the Report of Mandal commission the lists of JK-UT. The Union Govt and JK-UT Govt. should disband this commission and constitute a BACKWARD CLASSES COMMISSION as the para number 123A of A.I.R.1993-94 regarding the Judgment dt.16.11.1992 on Mandal commission report in the case "INDIRA SAWHNEY Vs UNION OF INDIA for inclusion & Exclusion of castes and communities.

The dignitaries who spoke in the protest were Sh.Mohd Shabir Ahmed Salaria, President Dhobi Biradiri I welfare centre committee, Sh.Mohan Lal Pawar Fen.Sect. OBC Mahasabha, Bansi Lal Gumbal, Ravi Kumar Dogra, Manohar Lal Tidyad

Religious pilgrimages promote societal, national harmony: Dr. Manyal

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 27 : Religious pilgrimages promote societal, national harmony among various regions and religions, stated Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, J&K BJP General Secretary & former Minister.

Dr. Manyal, along with other leaders of the party who served 'Langar' at the Shree Amarnath Ji Yatri in the premises of Purani Mandi Ram Mandir in the presence of Maha Mandleshwar Shree Shree Maheshwar Das ji Maharaj. Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal said that every year during the entire Yatra period of Shree Amarnath ji, Langar is organized in this ancient temple and thousands of the devotees are provided meals, with majority of them from the Sadhu Samaj.

He said that it is a great



service and one should feel blessed to have an opportunity to contribute in the daily Langar.

"Religious pilgrimages promote societal, national harmony among various regions and religions", Dr. Manyal said and added that the Holy Yatra to Shree Amarnath ji Shrine promotes local business as well as provides employment to a large number of people enroute Yatra.

Baru expressed their gratitude to Mahant Shree Rameshwar Dass ji for giving them opportunity to come and serve the pilgrims.

J&K BJP Vice-President Anuradha Charak, Mahila Morcha National Executive Member & Prabhari Punjab Updesh Andotra, Indu Puri, Kuldeep Kandhari and others also joined Dr. Manyal in serving the Langar.

Deptt of tele in collaboration with AoL organises 'HarGharDhyan' workshop

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 27 : Department of telecommunication, licensed service area (LSA) J&K, Jammu in collaboration with Art of Living organized 'HarGharDhyan' workshop under the patronage of Deputy Director General (I.T.S) Arun Agarwal and supervision of Assistance Director of DOT (LSA) Vijay Kumar in which scores of senior official and staff participated which was held at Art of living GyanMandir Temple of knowledge, Adarsh Enclave, Trikutanagar, Jammu.

The Union Ministry of Culture has collaborated with Art of Living to reach out to the masses and youth to educate them about mental health and empower them with the tool of meditation for better health. The project was launched on 26th October 2022 at the international headquarters of the Art of Living at Bangalore and done more than 12000 meditation sessions as on date across country. The Art of Living Foundation is a volunteer-based, humanitarian and educational non-governmental organization

(NGO) having its centres at 180 countries. It was founded in 1981 by Gurudev Shri Shri Ravi Shankar. Under the banner of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav,

This scheme puts into action the Jan-Bhagidari model to empower the youth towards better health and create a more resilient future for the country. The HarGharDhyan meditation Session under the patronage of Deputy Director General I.T.S, Arun Agarwal, Resource Persons Mr. Ajay Kapoor, State Coordinator Art of Living, Bureau of communications and Mr. Shakti Sagor, senior faculty and DTC both from The Art of living Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh Chapter.

Shakti Sagor very beautifully explained how the change in life style adopting meditation, pranayama and stress relieving kriyas help in boosting immunity and health, relieve stress, anxiety and depression, and has ability to manage our mind, increasing Stamina to work relentlessly

ly on stress management of Senior officials and staff of DOT and BSNL.

The resource persons for the workshop were Mr. Shakti Sagor, senior faculty and DTC, The Art of living Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh Chapter & Mr. Ajay Kapoor, State coordinator, Art of Living Bureau of Communications and Project the Art of living Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh Chapter. Shakti Sagor very beautifully explained how the change in life style adopting meditation, pranayama and stress relieving kriyas help in boosting immunity and health, relieve stress, anxiety and depression, and has ability to manage our mind, increasing Stamina to work relentlessly

BMCs meeting held at Banihal

RAMBAN, JULY 27: Divisional Forest Officer Ramban, Dr. Rajan Singh convened a meeting with Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) of Banihal Range. The meeting was attended by the Sarpanchs, chairpersons of BMCs and secretaries of different Panchayats. The DFO sensitized BMCs about the new Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP) policy notified recently by the UT Government for sustainable collection of minor Forest products and creating livelihood opportunities for the locals. The BMCs were asked to register depot owners (Traders) who store and trade NTFP gathered by collectors in the Panchayats. They were also asked to share details for opening bank accounts in the name of the BMCs.

Chief Secretary reviews arrangements for I-Day 2023

Calls upon officers to organize grand celebrations to mark the occasion

REFUGEE MESSAGE BUREAU SRINAGAR, JULY 27

Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today chaired a high-level meeting of senior civil and security officers to review the final arrangements for the Independence Day 2023 at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary Home, RK Goyal; Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor, Mandeep Kumar Bhandari; Administrative Secretaries of all Departments, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir/Jammu, ADGP Jammu/Kashmir, Director Information J&K, HoDs of various Departments, Deputy Commissioners and SSPs of all districts, senior officers of Army, CRPF and other security agencies as well as other concerned officers both in person and through video conferencing.

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on various aspects of the event, including security measures, traffic management, cultural programs, flag hoisting ceremonies, public engagements and other related arrangements.

Addressing the officers, Dr. Mehta remarked that Independence Day of any nation holds immense significance for its citizens. He observed that the day symbolizes the spirit of freedom and unity and therefore grand celebrations right from Panchayat level should be held with due fervour



to mark this grand occasion. He emphasized on the need for meticulous planning and coordination to ensure a seamless and befitting celebration, showcasing the nation's pride and achievements. While reviewing the main event to be held at Sher-i-Kashmir Cricket Stadium, the Chief Secretary directed the concerned officers to ensure fool proof security in-and-around the main venue. He directed the traffic department to identify space for proper parking of vehicles with due adherence to protocol near the venue.

Calling upon the officers to make the event a festive occasion, the Chief Secretary asked the officers that all government

offices, buildings, schools, colleges and universities should hoist the national flag on August 15 with proper flag code. He asked the DCs that similar kind of celebrations should be organised from in their respective districts. He also asked them to hoist flags near AmritSarovars constructed in different Panchayats.

The Chief Secretary directed the Commissioner Secretary Information Department that the recently inaugurated National Anthem Singing Competition should be organised in collaboration with the education department so that maximum students can participate in it. He directed all DCs to popularise this campaign in their respective districts

by keeping synergy with concerned district information offices.

He also asked the Director Information that proper Media Plan should be drafted well in advance to facilitate the media persons at the venue.

Dr Mehta also directed all the officers that the Swachta campaigns should be organised in all government offices. He also asked them to illuminate all government buildings to mark this occasion.

The Chief Secretary enjoined upon all DCs that taking selfie with 'Mitti' of the village or earthen 'Diya' in hand as well as 'VasudhaVandan' under which each Gram Panchayat will replenish mother earth by planting

at least 75 plant saplings preferentially around the already established AmritSarovars, should be popularised in their districts so that maximum people participate. He also asked them that 'MittiYatras' from Panchayats should be organized on massive scale.

Dr. Mehta also asked the officers that in case of inclement weather, arrangements should be made beforehand so that I-Day celebrations would pass off smoothly. He advised the concerned officers that one person from each block of all districts being sent to New Delhi with its 'Mitti' for construction of the National Memorial at Kartavya Path should be selected well in advance and preference should be given to youth who have excelled in sports or have been National Awardees or State Awardees.

The Chief Secretary also directed the Culture

Department that the programs to be performed by their artists during the event should create patriotic fervor among the audiences and give message of unity and spirit of freedom.

The Chief Secretary directed the officers that all District Development Council members, participating in the event should be facilitated. He urged that the speeches of public representatives on the I-Day event should emphasize on 'Digital J&K' initiative and highlight government achievements like NashaMukht JK, Jan Baghidari, Apki Zameen Apki Nigrani and other remarkable achievements of Jammu and Kashmir made during the past few years.

Dr. Mehta also asked the officers that 'HarGhar-Tiranga' campaign should be held on massive scale and all the people should participate in this event quite enthusiastically. He also asked the security agencies to facilitate the movement of people on the day.

He advised the concerned officers that in case of inclement weather, arrangements should be made beforehand so that I-Day celebrations would pass off smoothly.

On the occasion, all the officers gave their inputs and the status of arrangements wherein the Chief Secretary expressed his satisfaction over the arrangements and preparedness for the upcoming Independence Day celebrations.

3-Day Capacity Building on Drug Demand Reduction campaign concludes in Kishtwar

REFUGEE MESSAGE BUREAU KISHTWAR, JULY 27

The Social Welfare Department, Kishtwar, successfully concluded the 3-day capacity building training cum awareness programme on Drug Demand Reduction under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan.

After the Successful awareness programmes held at GDC Chatroo and Gulabgarh Paddar, the last witnessed a mega awareness programme here in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex, with Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Devansh Yadav as the chief guest.

The training programme, held under the close supervision of District Social Welfare Officer, Zubair Ahmed Lone, witnessed the participation of several government functionaries and stakeholders in the fight against drug abuse.

Present at the event were DySP Hqsrs. Dr. Ishan Gupta; CMO, Dr. M. Y. Mir; Nodal Officer Addiction Treatment Facility, Dr. Arif; Counsellors from the Education Department, Officers and officials of One Stop Centre & District Hub for Empowerment of Women, PRI Members, Anganwari Workers, Asha Workers, Teachers, Students, NSS Cadets of GDC Kishtwar, Representatives from different departments, and NGO representatives.

The District Social Welfare Officer Kishtwar commenced the program by delivering the welcome address, briefing the participants about the aims and objectives of organis-

ing such a crucial training program. The primary objective of the Capacity Building Programme was to raise awareness among the participants about the hazardous effects of substance use and to explore effective strategies for eradicating this menace from society.

In his address, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, highlighted the pivotal role of girl students as ambassadors in carrying forward the message of Nasha Mukht Bharat and combating drug abuse in the society.

Recognizing the different roles girls and women play as mothers, sisters, and as life partner, he emphasized their importance in curbing the drug menace and encouraged them to actively participate in the initiative.

Dr. Devansh Yadav urged the District Social Welfare Department, other stakeholders, and enforcement agencies to collaborate in the fight against drug abuse. There is an imminent need to reinforce a united front to address this pressing issue, he added.

Several resource persons including Dr. Arif, Counsellors from the Education Department, Sandeep Kumar and Ajay Kumar, enlightened the participants about the identification, treatment, aftercare, rehabilitation, and social integration of individuals dependent on substances. The sessions covered crucial topics such as symptoms, early signs, effects of drugs, precautionary measures, and available treatment facilities for drug users.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Shri Amarnathji Yatra...

and security, fostering an environment of gratitude and admiration.

Additionally, the Yatra coincided with the commemoration of Kargil Diwas at all Yatra Base Camps, wherein the triumph of the Kargil War was honored. The event saw active participation from various security departments, including the Army, CRPF, Police, NDRF, SDRF, Civil Administration, and Yatries, further strengthening the bond between the armed forces and the civilian population. The Yatra served as an opportunity to pay tribute to the valiant soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the defense of the nation.

As the Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2023 continues to witness an ever-growing number of devotees and garners widespread praise for its well-organized arrangements, it stands as a shining example of communal harmony, unity, and devotion. This sacred journey transcends geographical boundaries, bringing people from all walks of life together in a shared spirit of oneness and reverence.

In conclusion, the Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2023 has not only surpassed the previous year's numbers but has also touched the hearts of countless devotees, leaving an indelible impression of unity, spirituality, and appreciation for the administration's meticulous efforts. The Yatra remains a cherished experience for all pilgrims and continues to inspire a sense of reverence and devotion in the hearts of those who undertake this sacred expedition.

Peace is prevailing...

shared the transformational journey of UT of J&K towards peace, prosperity and inclusive development.

Earlier, shutdown calls were a regular feature in the valley by a handful of people for their vested interest, however, it was common man who used to bear the brunt. Those days are gone now, he said.

"Peace is prevailing, nightlife has returned and people are living freely," he added.

Today is also a historic occasion when Muharram procession was taken out peacefully in Srinagar after a gap of over 30 years, the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor extended his gratitude to the Hon'ble Governor of Kerala for gracing the occasion and blessing the participants with his words of wisdom.

He congratulated the Cluster University of Srinagar and the J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages for their endeavour to promote the Sufi traditions.

He also called upon the people to embrace the Rishi-Sufi traditions and eliminate all traces of communal divide to strengthen unity.

Prof. Qayyum Husain, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Srinagar gave a detailed overview of the Convention.

Sh. Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Padma Shri Dr SP Varma; Vice Chancellors of various Universities; senior officials of UT administration; prominent citizens, students in large numbers attended the inaugural ceremony.

PM targets opposition...

citizens. "Though these dynasts and corrupt people have

changed the name of their jamaat (community), their face, behaviour and intentions are the same old. When the middle-class gets something cheaper, they claim farmers are not getting proper price (for their products). When farmers get good prices, they claim inflation is soaring. This double standards is the hallmark of their politics" said Modi without taking any names.

Last week, 26 opposition parties came together and formed a new grouping, Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA), at a meeting in Bengaluru to take on the BJP-led NDA in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. The previous anti-BJP alliance was called the UPA, which was headed by the Congress.

In his address, the PM stated that his government came to office in 2014 with a "guarantee" of delivering good governance and the same has been fulfilled during the nine-year tenure of the BJP-led NDA dispensation at the Centre.

Praising his administration for keeping inflation under control, Modi said the price of one litre of milk would have cost Rs 300 if the past government (of Congress and its allies) had continued in office.

"Just see their track record in terms of inflation. When they were in power, the rate of inflation was 10 per cent. Prices would have been touching the sky today if we had not controlled the inflation. Had they been in power at present, one litre of milk would have cost Rs 300 while one kg of dal would have been sold for Rs 500," he said.

The PM maintained the BJP-led government managed to contain the price rise despite the coronavirus pandemic and the ongoing Ukraine-Russia war.

"The rate of inflation in our neighbouring countries is 25 to 30 per cent. But, that is not the case in India. We have been trying to control inflation and will continue to do so," he added.

Modi said thanks to the efforts of his government, nearly 13.5 crore people came out of poverty during the last five years alone.

According to the PM, mobile phone users would have been paying nearly Rs 6,000 as their monthly bill if the previous government had stayed in office today.

"Every citizen today uses 20 GB of mobile data per month. In 2014 (when BJP came to power at Centre), the cost of IGB data was Rs 300. Had they (Congress and its allies) been in power at present, people would have been paying Rs 6,000 as their monthly bill. But, for 20GB, the bill you pay at present is just Rs 300 to Rs 400. You are saving nearly Rs 5,000 per month," he said.

From the stage, the PM inaugurated various development projects, including packages 8 and 9 of the Saurashtra Narmada Avtaran Irrigation (SAUNI) Yojana.

The recently completed packages of the SAUNI scheme will provide water to 52,398 acres of irrigable land in 95 villages and potable water to around 98,000 people in Gujarat's Saurashtra region.

Other projects include a multi-level flyover, a water treatment plant and a library with over 33,000 books.

Prior to addressing the gathering, Modi inaugurated an international airport near Rajkot city in the afternoon. He had performed the ground-breaking ceremony of the international airport at Hirasar village near Rajkot city in October 2017.

After inaugurating the aerodrome, the first greenfield international airport of Gujarat, he went inside the

premises and interacted with officials on technical and other aspects of the project.

The greenfield airport has been built at a cost of Rs 1,405 crore and is located approximately 30 km from Rajkot city, said an official release.

The airport premises is spread over an area of 1,025.50 hectares (2,534 acres) out of which the Airports Authority of India has constructed the airport in an area of 1,500 acres. It has a 3,040 meter long and 45-meter-wide runway which can park 14 planes at any given point, said the release. Civil aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, Gujarat chief minister Bhupendra Patel and members of his cabinet were present at the function. (Agencies)

Repair work to...

The areas affected will include Panjtirthi and adjoining areas, Rehari and adjoining areas, Janipur, Lakkari Mandi, Plauraa, Bata Nagar and adjoining areas. Public is advised to use water judiciously during the above said period

Kashmiri Pandit organisation...

"Pandits" and it is proof of the complete failure of the State Constitution in concert with Article 370.

The application stated, "The Applicant feels that the Article 370 was a dead letter which had to go as it was a temporary Article and by design it was anti-minorities and pro-majority of the State population and this led to the major exodus of the Kashmiri Pandit community since 1947".

"The Applicant intends to put a very strong legal and Constitutional argument in front of the Court by solely relying on the authentic sources of the information citing the historic and Constitutional developments before the Jammu and Kashmir Constitution was enacted and how the separate Constitution of J&K and Presidential Order which incorporated Article 35A as part I of the Indian Constitution, eventually leading to systematic displacement of the Kashmiri Pandit community."

The application sought acknowledgment of the apex court regarding the violence exercised upon the Kashmiri Pandit community between the period of 1989-1991 as a "direct or indirect consequence of unimpeded powers provided to the Jammu & Kashmir State government under Article 370 of the Constitution".

It further sought acknowledgment from the top court that ensures "recording of the trials and tribulations faced by the Kashmiri Pandit community in Jammu and Kashmir and the exodus thereof as a matter of history".

"The application sought to draw attention of the Supreme Court regarding Jammu and Kashmir State government's failure to understand and in any manner address the "plight and hardships faced by the now exiled Kashmiri Pandit community,

through the implementation of Article 370 of the Constitution for the period between 1956-2019." The Constitution bench of the top court will start from August 2 the hearing of a batch of petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union territories.

Manipur UPSC centre...

is exploring the potential of Bus Roof Mounted Air Purification Systems (BRMAPS) to capture Particulate Matter in the highly polluted cities.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), a Statutory Body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has installed Parivartyana Filtration units on top of 30 buses to filter dust in Delhi-NCR.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, CPCB conducted pilot trials of various new technologies for management and improvement of air quality in Delhi-NCR through premier institutions. A pilot study was conducted on the deployment and evaluation of Wind Augmentation and Purifying (WAYU) units for traffic junction pollution abatement in Delhi. He said, under this study, 54 units were installed which operated at five traffic intersections in Delhi i.e., ITO, Anand Vihar, Shadipur, Wazirpur Chowk and Bhikaji Cama Place for reduction in air pollution.

A pilot study was conducted on control of dust emissions using dust suppressants. Under this, application of dust suppressant (salts of calcium/magnesium and bio additives) was done at 62 sites: Sarai kale khan road, DDA construction site at Narela and Dilshad Garden flyover to Shaheed nagar metro station to check the control on dust emissions. Installed a negative ion generator at IIT Delhi, Sonapat campus for assessing the impact of generated Negative Air Ions (NAIs) on ambient air quality. Further, two experimental pilot projects of smog towers, one at Anand Vihar by Central Government and another at Connaught place by Delhi Government has been commissioned to reduce particulate air pollution.

Councillor Rahul initiates construction of a wall along Nallah to address flooding issues



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 27 : Councillor Ward 20 Rahul Kumar along with Gandhi Nagar Mandal General Secretary, Rachit Khosla started the construction work of a wall along Nallah near SLR laboratory. This long-awaited project aims to address the persistent

issue of excessive flooding during the monsoon season, significantly impacting the general public.

Speaking on the occasion, the Councillor said overflowing of the Nallah has been a perennial problem for the local residents. With the commencement of the wall construction, the problems caused by Nallah over-

flow will be effectively resolved once and for all, he added. He hoped that completion of the wall will not only mitigate the flooding issues but will also enhance the overall liveability and sustainability of the area.

The Councillor said that all-round development and welfare of the people of the union territory is the top priority of the Modi government. Highlighting the BJP government's focus on addressing the issues faced by the common people, he said that serving the citizens has always been the top priority of the BJP-led government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He stated that the BJP's ideology revolves around serving the people of the nation and ensuring their well-being.

Later, Rahul also shared that several other development works that are currently in the pipeline and the same projects will be executed in a phased manner to ensure that they meet the community's needs and expectations, he added. Among those who were present include Rajinder Bal, Rajeev Khurana, and Sahil Gupta.

Health condition of Social Activist on hunger strike deteriorates



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 27 : As the indefinite hunger strike by Social Activist and PDP District Jammu Media Coordinator Narinder Sharma in RS Pura entered into third consecutive day today, his health condition deteriorated this afternoon. He has been observing indefinite hunger strike since Tuesday over waving off electricity bills of poor people in the area unable to pay hefty power bills and

also installing smart meters which in turn huge electricity bills beyond their capacity to pay them monthly. Following which a team of doctors from Sub District Hospital RS Pura reached the spot. After a check-up, Doctors suggested immediate medical treatment and suggested administering glucose which he refused to take. Several prominent persons today visited the protesting Narinder Sharma and extended their support to him. Speaking on the occasion,

Sharma said poor people are facing exorbitant power tariff bills in thousands and even PDD authorities have disconnected several power installations in the area where a good number of people are daily wagers making both ends meet with utmost hardships. Sharma further said that Government should show compassion and provide special succour particularly to the financially distressed poor and marginalized sections of the society. "The labourers, farmers, small traders, self employed, taxi transport and auto operators, Rehri and Phari owners have been worst affected due to economic slowdown and their source of earnings is not enough to pay such hefty electricity bills. The Govt must provide them some relief," he added. Sharma said that they are poor people and are not having any facilities like refrigerators, televisions, geysers, or air conditioners. They hardly use bulbs as there are regular power cuts and sometimes they reel under darkness for days.

NSS & NCC Unit of DDC organises plantation drive

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 27 : NSS & NCC Unit of Dogra Degree College in collaboration with the Social Forestry Department, Samba, Govt. of J&K today organized a plantation drive at adopted villages (Smailpur and upper kartholi) under the banner "Meri Matti Mera Desh".

The drive was conducted under the patronage of Ms Priyanka Sharma, NSS PO, Dogra Degree College, Mr Gulshan Sharma, ANO/CTO, NCC, Dogra Degree College, Mr Sunny Tadyal, Forester, Department of Forests, Samba. A large number of Students, NCC cadets, NSS Volunteers, Staff members, and Officials from the Forest Dept. participated in the drive, and saplings of different species were



planted during the event.

Ms Priyanka Sharma, NSS PO, Dogra Degree College, appreciated the participants and encouraged all to plant more saplings for a greener and sustainable future. She also thanked the Forest Department for providing about 75 saplings of different species. Mr Sunny Tadyal, Forester, Department of Forests, Samba, also appreciated the participants and explained the importance of such plantation drives. He also assured all possible support for such events in the future as well.

Aditi Khajuria (Lecturer and Member, NSS), Ms Palak Gupta (Lecturer and Member, NSS), Mr Balwant Singh (Sarpanch, Smailpur), Sh Tarsaim Singh (Sarpanch, Uppar Kartholi), Mr Surjeet Sharma (Forest Guard) and Mr R.K Choudhary (Forest Guard) were also present on the occasion.

Modi Govt acknowledged long-standing demand of Paharis for ST status: Purnima

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 27 : Purnima Sharma, Spokesperson of BJP Jammu and Kashmir and former Deputy Mayor of Jammu, expressed her heartfelt appreciation to the Government at the Centre for acknowledging the longstanding demand of the Pahari community in Jammu and Kashmir. She extended her warm congratulations to the Pahari Tribals on the induction of the Bill in the Lok Sabha, granting them Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

Highlighting the BJP's unwavering commitment to turning promises into reality, Purnima emphasized that the Party had made a pledge to the Paharis to secure their genuine rights. She cited the multiple announcements by the Union Home Minister, affirming the government's dedication to fulfilling the dreams of the Pahari community, and now this historic development has come to fruition.

Purnima Sharma proudly asserted



that the BJP remains steadfast in its commitment to inclusive development, embracing all sections of society regardless of caste, color, creed, or religion. The recognition of the Pahari community's demand for ST status is a significant step towards empowering and uplifting their voices, ensuring their rightful representation and opportunities for progress, she added.

She acknowledged that the Pahari tribal community had been vic-

tim of Article 370's implications. She highlighted their relentless struggle spanning almost four decades to achieve their rightful demand of Scheduled Tribe (ST) status. Through their determination and with the government's recognition of their aspirations, the Pahari community's hard-fought battle has finally come to fruition with an induction of Bill in the Lok Sabha, leading to a significant step forward in their empowerment and recognition.

With this landmark decision, the government's dedication to addressing the aspirations and needs of diverse communities in Jammu and Kashmir is evident, Purnima said and commended the Centre's proactive approach in listening to the concerns of the people and working towards building a stronger and more inclusive society. "This progressive decision would serve as a catalyst for further empowering marginalized sections and fostering unity and harmony among the diverse population of Jammu and Kashmir," she added.

Paharis' justified demand is acknowledged: BJP



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 27 : Mohd. Iqbal Malik, senior BJP leader and DDC Member Darhal (Rajouri) congratulated the Pahari Tribals on induction of Bill in Lok Sabha granting Scheduled Tribe (ST) status, which will include the Pahari ethnic group in the desired Schedule.

"A long standing justified demand

of Paharis' is acknowledged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi government", BJP leader said.

Mohd. Iqbal Malik, along with Gulzar Ahmad Qureshi, District President Minority Morcha Kazam Malik, Co-Convenor Pahari Cell Poonch Saleem Manhas, District Spokesperson Rajouri Arsalan Malik was addressing a Press Conference at BJP headquarter, Trikuta Nagar,

Jammu. While addressing the media persons, Iqbal congratulated the Pahari Tribals for inclusion in Schedule of Tribe. Has also congratulated Bakerwals and Gujjar tribe as their quota remaining in fact on their major demand fulfilled.

Iqbal Malik along with others, thanked the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP National President J.P. Nadda and BJP State President Ravinder Raina for ensuring the justice to the deserved group.

He, on the occasion, also appealed to all the communities to promote peace and brotherhood among various communities.

He articulated that whole Pahari tribe will remain thankful to the BJP in all the times to come and whole of the tribe will remember the landmark decision taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

Sham Lal Sharma listens to public grievances at BJP headquarter



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 27 : Sham Lal Sharma, J&K BJP Vice President & former Minister listened to the grievances of a large number of people belonging to different areas of Jammu &

Kashmir at BJP headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Individuals and Deputations of people from various areas of Jammu & Kashmir had reached Trikuta Nagar office to meet BJP leader with their grievances.

They narrated their woes and sought kind intervention of the party leaders to get their problems solved.

Sham Lal Sharma, gave patient hearings to the problems of the people, which were taken up with the concerned officials of

the departments stressing for early resolution so that the people are not made to suffer. Speaking on the occasion, Sham Lal Sharma said that BJP serves the nation, society and common people with a clear heart and soul, which have led to the ever-increasing love and faith of people for the party.

He said that through the medium of these camps, people are now more connected to the party as their long pending issues are getting resolved.

Er. Dil Bahadur Jamwal, Incharge Department of Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan and Danish Mishra Coordinator Grievance Camps coordinated the camp proceedings and diazied the issues presented by the visiting masses.

NSS Unit GDC Budhal organises Mega Plantation Drive

JJ NEWS SERVICE

BUDHAL, JUL 27 : Today in connection with Meri Matti Mera Desh Abhiyan, NSS Unit Of Govt. Degree College Budhal Organised a Mega Plantation Drive within College Campus, Surrounding area of College and Adopted Village Kewal Lower Under the patronage of wrothy Principal of the College Dr. Mohd Mazammal Hussain.

A good number of NSS Volunteers, Faculty members, Non teaching staff and other Students of College participated in this event with zeal and zest.

Principal of the College,



Dr. Mohd Mazammal Hussain congratulated the NSS Unit of the College for organizing the event. He stressed on the fact that Climate change is the biggest threat that we are facing today and it will become disastrous if we will not tackle it.

Further in his speech he said that increase in Green house gases due to anthro-

banning of the polythene bages in college campus and surrounding area of the College and directed that all the students and faculty members should plant trees in the campus, Surrounding area of the College and Adopted Village "Each one, plant one" should be the slogan and that is the only way to invest.

During the drive, more than 15 saplings were planted. On the occasion the NSS Programme Officer Dr. Ajaz Hussain Shah motivated the students to plant more and more tree saplings for environmental conservation and sustainability.

Nomination to J&K Legislative Assembly: G.L. Raina thanks Modi government

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUL 27 : The Displaced Community of Kashmiri Pandits expresses its gratitude towards the Hon'ble Home Minister Amit Shah and Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi for taking a long due steps towards political empowerment of the community. With the introduction of the Jammu and Kashmir reorganisation (Amendment) Bill 2023 in Lok Sabha, the Displaced Community feels overjoyed at the prospect of being represented of Jammu Kashmir. Former member of Legislative Council Girdhari Lal Raina thanked union government for ensuring political empowerment of the beleaguered community. It may

be recalled that the religious minority of Kashmir was once in a position to elect four members to the State Legislature, he added. Successive governments in a planned manner worked to exclude and marginalize the community socially, economically as well as politically, he alleged. Political marginalization was achieved by Gerrymandering of territorial constituencies dominated by the minority community, he added. The exclusion and marginalization was completed by breaking and scattering even the Habba Kadal hitherto considered to be the bastion of Kashmiri Hindu Community.

Result was that the community that elected several members to the Legislative Assembly remained

unrepresented in the previous State Assembly. Thanks to the Bharatiya Janata Party, the community was given representation in Legislative Council. It is after long time that government in the New Delhi has in a systematic manner strengthened and empowered all those sections of society like OBCs, Paharis and STs and SCs. Including Displaced Community in this list of empowered communities is welcome. This empowerment will go a long way in addressing problems of the Displaced Community, most important being ability to become voice of the community in the State Legislature former MLC thanked Home Minister and Prime Minister for listening to the demand of the community.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

Cold desert to get train connectivity

It sounds good that the BJP-led Central government has decided to connect the cold desert, Ladakh, with the rest of the country, through rail line. For this, it has planned to construct 489-km-long Bilaspur-Manali-Leh new railway track with a whopping cost of Rs 99,201.40 crore. In this connection, the government has also made some progress by completing the survey of Bilaspur-Manali-Leh new line project while the Detailed Project Report (DPR) has also been prepared. Prior to that the Railways had to shelve two rail line projects for Ladakh region, including Srinagar-Kargil-Leh new line project and Pathankot-Leh new line project after carrying out surveys on both lines, saying they failed to take forward the projects due to low traffic projections. The Union Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw has said the survey of Bilaspur-Manali-Leh new line project has been completed and DPR was prepared. The alignment of new line Bilaspur-Manali-Leh (489 km) line starts - off from Beri, passes through major towns of Sundernagar, Mandi, Manali, Sissu, Darcha Keylong, Sarchu, Pang, Rumtse, Upshi, Kharu and terminates at Leh Terminus, connecting important towns of Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh. The project envisaging rail connectivity to the arid region of Ladakh will comprise 40 stations, 62 tunnels, and 206 bridges. Out of the projected 489-km-long rail line, nearly 270-km will be covered through tunnels and the entire project covers a land area of 2557.96 hectares. There will be two important bridges on the proposed track. Out of total bridges, 114 bridges will be major bridges and 90 minor bridges. At 37 places, there will be road over bridge while 54 locations will have road under bridge. The Railways had also conducted a survey for the 480-km-long Srinagar-Kargil-Leh new line project in 2016-17. "As per Survey report the anticipated cost of the project was Rs 55,896 crores. However, due to low traffic projections, the project could not be taken forward," it said. Over the Pathankot-Leh new line project, the Union Minister said the survey for 664-km-long Pathankot-Leh new rail line was carried out in 2017-18. Ladakh remains cut off from the rest of the country for months together due to accumulation of snow that led to closure of two vital highways - Srinagar-Kargil-Leh road and Manali-Leh, proposed. Air travel to and fro from Ladakh is also quite expensive and the airfare remains out of the common man's reach in summers. What is required at the moment is that the government should ensure early launch of the project and its timely execution.

Expansion of five-nation BRICS faces diverse challenges

EXPANSION SHOULD BE GRADUAL AND BASED ON HOW NEW COUNTRIES WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO MUTUAL COMPLEMENTARITIES.

YOGESH GUPTA

The BRICS nations - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - will be holding their 15th summit at Johannesburg, South Africa, from August 22 to 24. Russian President Vladimir Putin will participate virtually in the summit rather than attending it in person so as to avoid being arrested on a warrant issued by the International Criminal Court.

The acronym BRIC was coined by Jim O'Neill, an economist working with American company Goldman Sachs, to highlight the strong growth potential of these countries and how they could dominate the global economy by 2050. Russia, India and China (RIC) started holding a dialogue in the early 2000s, expressing their interest in a shift from a unipolar to a multipolar world with a more sympathetic global governance system. The acronym RIC changed to BRIC with the induction of Brazil in 2009 and to BRICS in 2010 with the inclusion of South Africa.

Since then, the group has met on an annual basis at the level of heads of government along with meetings of their foreign ministers, national security advisers and senior officials. A key factor responsible for the group's success has been its capacity to circumvent internal disagreements and focus on the unifying issues. The group has stood for its commitment to an equitable multipolar world, reforming the global governance system to make it more inclusive and representative, sustainable development, economic decentralisation and support for a rules-based multilateral trading system. The group also aims to strengthen the capacities of member states to better respond to new and emerging challenges to their security, such as terrorism, money laundering and cybercrimes.

The group's achievements include the establishment of New Development Bank (NDB) in 2015 with a total capital of \$100 billion and paid-up capital of \$50 billion equally subscribed by the five members. The bank funds sustainable development and infrastructure projects in member countries; NDB-funded projects in India include the Mumbai Metro rail, the Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System and a number of renewable energy projects. Former



Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff is the current NDB president.

The group also agreed to set up a Contingent Reserve Arrangement in 2015 by committing another \$100 billion to protect its members' economies from financial instability and currency speculation. China contributed \$41 billion and can withdraw up to \$21 billion; Russia, India and Brazil contributed \$18 billion each and can withdraw that much; South Africa contributed \$5 billion and can withdraw up to \$10 billion. In 2021, Egypt, the UAE, Uruguay and Bangladesh joined the NDB, but their subscribed capital was much lesser. By 2021, the NDB had disbursed total loans of \$14.6 billion to members.

The BRICS comprise five big countries which represent about 41 per cent of the global population, 31.5 per cent of the global GDP as compared to 30.7 per cent of the G7 in terms of purchasing power parity (2022) and 16 per cent of the global trade; in market prices, their combined GDP was \$25.913 trillion as compared to \$43.766 trillion of the G7 (World Bank, 2022). The political and economic heft of the group has attracted about 40 developing countries, which are keen to join the BRICS. These include Argentina, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Algeria, Ethiopia, Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria, Kazakhstan, Bangladesh, Thailand and Indonesia.

China has been trying since 2017

to expand the group by including other countries to constitute a BRICS Plus framework. Its main motivation seems to be the transformation of BRICS into a China-centric bloc, entrap the new members with loans under its Belt and Road Initiative, export manufactured goods for which its markets in the West are contracting and demonstrate to the West that it is a leader of the Global South. China perceives that the economic performance of Brazil, Russia and South Africa has deteriorated; Russia is besieged by the Ukraine war; India is getting closer to the US-led groupings; and unless the BRICS expands with the inclusion of big developing countries, its global influence will wane.

Russia has also lent support for the expansion of BRICS as it has attempted to counter western attempts to isolate it. Since the start of the Ukraine war, the BRICS countries have not supported the West-led sanctions against Russia and have continued their trade with it. South Africa, whose economy has been severely hit (its GDP in 2022 was \$405 billion), is also supportive of the BRICS expansion, hoping that this would enable it and other African countries to get more weight in global decision-making and raise economic assistance from several sources.

Brazil has been much more cautious as it believes that BRICS has demonstrated a good brand value - its membership has conferred

enhanced status, legitimacy, stronger investment and trade ties. It has argued that the admission of new members should be transparent, based on a balanced approach and consensus-based decision-making.

At the BRICS Foreign Ministers' meeting in June, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had said that there were a couple of aspects of the group's expansion: one, consolidation of cooperation between existing BRICS members; two, BRICS's engagement with non-BRICS countries. BRICS Sherpas have been tasked to work on the guiding principles, standards, criterion and procedures for the admission of new members; the group should wait for their recommendations.

The BRICS is a relatively young group there are wide disparities in size, outlook and perceptions of its members about a multipolar world and restructuring of the global organs of power. The group has so far taken a non-confrontational stance and stayed away from the rivalry between the West and the China-Russia-Iran axis. Making the group too big would make decision-making more complicated and time-consuming. Expansion should be gradual and based on how the new countries would contribute to mutual complementarity, strengthening and long-term functioning of the group without deepening ideological and other divisions.

Combating climate change & its horrific impact

JAI PRAKASH NARAIN

The simultaneous heatwaves prevailing in many countries across North America and Europe have broken records. Earlier in the year, the World Meteorological Organisation had confirmed that the past eight years had been the warmest ever; from mountain peaks to ocean depths, climate change had continued its advance. The trends indicate that the global temperatures are likely to continue to surge, leading to a growing concern of an unprecedented increase in extreme weather events attributed to climate change. Closer home, we are witnessing, in particular in the hill state of Himachal Pradesh, unprecedented rainfall, resulting in utter devastation and loss of lives. In Kullu district alone, numerous bridges, roads and parts of the Mandi-Manali highway have been swept away by flashfloods and landslides, with the Beas in spate. In Kullu, hundreds of homes and cars have been washed away, rendering thousands of people homeless. The economic losses suffered by the state are estimated to be over Rs 8,000 crore. It is one stark example of climate change and its grave consequences.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report of 2023, humankind has been responsible for virtually all instances of global heating over the past 200 years. As a global phenomenon, the

impact of climate change is all too visible in the form of extreme weather events and natural disasters such as heatwaves, floods, landslides and droughts, which are occurring with greater frequency and intensity.

With the warming of the planet, the glaciers in the Himalayas are melting rapidly, leading to the formation of glacial lakes which when breached can sweep away villages after villages downstream. A recent study indicates that the number of glacial lakes is increasing rapidly in India, China and Nepal. They pose a huge threat to Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Sikkim, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

This trend is also associated with a rise in the sea level, which poses a grave existential danger to small island nations, such as the Maldives, and the coastal areas of India and Bangladesh. Climate change is responsible for the increase in cases of diarrhoea and mosquito-borne diseases, such as malaria and dengue, as well as heatstroke and cardiovascular diseases. By undermining access to essential needs such as water, sanitation and food, climate change threatens health and nutrition, education and the very survival of children.

The IPCC report has expressed grave concern about the world now being 1.15°C warmer than it was before the Industrial Revolution, and most countries not doing enough to address climate change. The urgency



required to tackle the crisis seems missing. Unfortunately, it is the developing countries of Africa and South Asia which are suffering disproportionately from the effects of climate change caused by the West and China. India, in particular, remains vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Heavy rains, cloudbursts, floods and drought conditions in various parts of the country have led to crop failure, economic losses and human suffering. So, how should climate change be

addressed? First, all countries must recognise that climate change is a real and present danger and it is the result of greenhouse gas emissions leading to a rise in the atmospheric temperature.

Having included it as a priority agenda item of G20, India as its president has a historic opportunity to play a pivotal role in shaping the global agenda on climate change. It can do so by advancing innovative strategies and fast-tracking measures for the

reduction of carbon emissions and by calling for an enhancement in national preparedness for climate change. Three main strategies need to be pursued: reducing greenhouse emissions, strengthening community and health system resilience, and compensating developing countries for loss and damages.

India's focus at the policy level is to reduce greenhouse emissions by transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy, such as solar, wind and

hydropower, and by ushering in green technology. India has made remarkable progress in this direction and the target for getting 50 per cent of energy from non-fossil sources by 2030 is likely to be achieved by 2027. India is the only G20 country which has delivered on the promise made at COP21 in Paris.

This is being achieved by giving a fillip to solar energy through the India-co-founded International Solar Alliance, and by taking steps towards making green hydrogen a renewable energy source, building charging infrastructure for electric cars, and manufacturing ethanol from agricultural waste as a biofuel.

Citizens and groups can and must contribute by adopting healthy lifestyle practices, planting more trees - thereby enhancing the green cover which functions as a 'carbon sink' - and protecting the environment by saving energy and saying no to plastic. Priority must also be accorded to strengthening national capacities and community resilience to cope with the impact of climate change.

The government must not only strengthen national health programmes but also take urgent steps to conduct environmental impact assessment, build check dams and explore ways to channelise water flow, protect riverbeds from encroachment and fortify them through barriers and by growing soil-holding plants and trees on riverbanks.

SUSHMITA SEN SHARES HEALTH UPDATE WITH FANS ON HER INSTAGRAM LIVE

Sushmita Sen shared a health update with her fans. The actor had suffered a heart attack in March this year during the filming of her upcoming web series, Aarya 3 and underwent angioplasty and stent implant. On Wednesday evening, Sushmita did an impromptu Instagram Live where she answered questions from fans who wanted to know about her health.

Sushmita's Instagram Live It so happened that Sushmita was on Instagram Live on Wednesday evening, as she was returning home from an event. She greeted a number of fans on live and answered to those asking about her health. Sushmita said, "My health is fabulous... I have been eating well." She also gave her fans an update on Season 3 of Aarya. "I am waiting for Aarya 3 too. I think it's going to be very lovely this

time. There is a lot that has gone into it... so many things to tell you when we finally discuss Aarya about all the stuff that we did, pre-health scare and all the action we did post. I hope you like it." she said.

Sushmita later posted the live on her Instagram and added the caption, "#instalive #justbeing I missed you guys!!!! Love you for all the goodness you bring to my life...ALWAYS!!! #yourstruly #duggadugga."

Sushmita's heart attack

Sushmita had left her fans in shock when she revealed about the heart attack in an Instagram post a few months ago. Sharing a picture with her father, she wrote, "Keep your heart happy & courageous, and it'll stand by you when you need it the most Shona" (Wise words by my father @sensubir). I suffered a heart attack a couple of days



back... Angioplasty done...stent in place...and most importantly, my cardiologist reconfirmed 'I do have a big heart'. Lots of people to thank for their timely aid & constructive action...will do so in another post! This post is just to keep you (my well wishers & loved ones) informed of the good news...that all is well & I am ready for some life again!!! I love you guys beyond!!!! #godisgreat #duggadugga."

Churni Ganguly defends clichés about Bengalis portrayed in Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani

KARAN JOHAR'S Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani will be released on Friday, and ever since the film's trailer dropped earlier this month, fans and celebs alike have been gushing about the film. In a new interview with News18, actor Churni Ganguly, who plays Alia Bhatt's mother in the film, has addressed the criticism of how Karan Johar has portrayed a Bengali family in Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani.



Reacting to the buzz around a scene that has come under scrutiny, where Ranveer Singh's Rocky mistakes a por-

trait of Rabindranath Tagore as Alia's character Rani Chatterji's 'dadaji (grandfather)', Churni defended how the film portrays Bengalis. She added 'por-

traits of Tagore are seen in many Bengali houses'. Churni says film shows quintessentially Bengali family. She told, "There are certain

events that have gradually crept into the Bengali system but if you want to project a family as quintessentially Bengali, you need to include these things. I think that things like Ranveer's character addressing Rabindranath Tagore as dadaji worked well for us. Portraits of Tagore are something you see in many Bengali houses," Churni further said, "When you've to project a Bengali family, you need to refer to certain stereotypes. These aren't even stereotypes. According to me, it's all essentially 'very Bengali'. We still don't wear lehengas at our

weddings; we've still stuck to our sarees." Alia Bhatt's look as a Bengali grabbed attention. Soon after the trailer dropped, Alia Bhatt's Rani Chatterjee in Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani was compared to other iconic Bengali characters portrayed over the years in Hindi films, such as Vidya Balan as Parineeta, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan as Paro in Devdas and Deepika Padukone as Piku Banerjee. Many had also compared Alia and Deepika's fashion sense in their films Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani and Piku, respective-

Akshay Kumar performs Shiv Tandav in 'Har Har Mahadev' song

The makers of the upcoming film 'OMG 2' unveiled the powerful track 'Har Har Mahadev' featuring Akshay Kumar, on Thursday on social media. Taking to Instagram, Akshay treated fans with full song video 'Har Har Mahadev' and captioned it, "#HarHarMahadev song out now. #OMG2 in theatres on August 11."

The video showcased number of worshippers celebrating god as they danced to the high beats.

Not only that, Akshay's powerful tandav leaves the fans impressed. Composed and sung by Vikram Motiwale, 'Har Har Mahadev' has been penned by Shekhar Astitwa.

The impactful moves of Akshay choreographed by Ganesh Acharya, Pankaj Tripathi, who is playing the Shiv devotee in the film is seen enjoying the song. As soon as the song was released the actor's fans chimed in the comment section to heap praises on Akshay's performance.

One of the users wrote, "What an amazing song, your energy is unmatched, loved the #HarHarMahadev beats throughout can't wait for OMG2."

Recently the makers unveiled the film's official teaser and the first track 'Oonchi Oonchi Waadi' which received good response from the audience.

Talking about 'Oonchi Oonchi Waadi' the song has been sung by Hansraj Raghuvanshi with music by Djstrings. It has been beautifully penned by Kabeer Shukla, Hansraj Raghuvanshi, Djstrings and also composed by them along with Raahi. Helmed by Amit Rai, the film stars Akshay Kumar, Pankaj Tripathi and Yamni Gautam in the lead roles and is all set to hit the theatres on August 11.

The film will face a big Bollywood clash with Sunny Deol's upcoming action film 'Gadar 2'.

In the teaser, Pankaj could be seen playing the role of Kanti Sharan Mudgal, who worships Lord Shiva with utmost dedication, while Akshay is seen playing the role of Lord Shiva who comes to help Kanti's family when they suffer a big tragedy.

Proud dad Arjun Rampal shares daughter Myra Rampal's video from the ramp, girlfriend Gabriella Demetriades reacts



Arjun Rampal has shared a post to reveal that his daughter Myra Rampal was one of the models who walked the ramp at India Couture Week recently. He shared a video montage of her pictures and videos from the fashion week and said that he was very "proud" of her.

Reactions to Arjun Rampal's post Arjun's girlfriend Gabriella Demetriades shared a clapping emoji in reaction to his post. Filmmaker Abhishek Kapoor commented on his post, "Wow... she's evolving so fast and so well," along with a heart emoji. A fan wrote, "She's pretty but she needs to work on her walk." Another said, "She looks like her mom !!! So beautiful and elegant." A former friend of Arjun also wrote, "Watching your beautiful daughter reminds me of our awesome time doing shows in India with you guys! Such an amazing experience for us South Africans! Ju Ma se poes - the only Afrikaans you could remember!"

A comment from Arjun's fanpage read: "She's a complete artist!!!! She can do it all, from painting to modeling. You raised a wonderful girl." A person gave the credit to Myra's "Modelling genes" in the comments section. A fan also called her "pretty".

Arjun welcomed his second son last week. Last week, Arjun became father for the fourth time. His girlfriend Gabriella Demetriades gave birth to their second son, Arjun, 50, took to Instagram to announce the birth of his fourth child. He wrote, "My family and I are blessed with a beautiful baby boy today. Mother and son are both doing well. Thank you to the wonderful team of doctors and nurses. We are over the moon. Thank you for all your love and support. #HelloWorld #20.07.2023." He shared a picture of a towel with 'Hello World' printed on it. Arjun and Gabriella Demetriades also have a son Arik, born in 2019.

'Wasn't 'Gadar' all about Pak hashing': On Kargil Vijay Diwas, Sunny Deol slammed as he speaks of peace between India, Pakistan

Punjab's Gurdaspur MP and actor Sunny Deol's statement over India-Pakistan relations at the trailer launch of his upcoming movie 'Gadar 2' has led to a controversy. The BJP MP on Wednesday blamed the "political game" for the hatred between India and Pakistan.

At the trailer launch event of his upcoming film 'Gadar 2' on Wednesday night, the actor said the people of the two nations don't want to fight each other.

"It is all not about what to give and what to take, it is about humanity. There shouldn't be any fights. There is equal love on both sides. Yeh siyasi khel hota hai jo sab nafraint paida karta hai. (It is the political game that gives birth to hatred), and you will see the same in this film as well. 'Janta nahi koi chahti ki ek dusre ke sath hum jhagda kare. (People don't want us to fight with each other). After all, we are from the same land,' Deol, who is the BJP MP from Gurdaspur, told reporters.

Sunny's statement has not gone down well with the netizens, who slammed him over his diplomatic stand. One user said, "The Shameful statement came out on #KargilVijayDiwas by so-called Patriot at the promotion event of Gadar 2."

"Tara Singh ne sara boycott apne upar le lie," said another, "What is this Aman ki Asha BS this guy is peddling? Wasn't Gadar all about Pak hashing?," wrote one user.

"Haha. Sunny Deol must have the common sense that people on this side will not take this comment lightly. They will boycott the movie."

Baking with Bullock! Jennifer Aniston throws baking bash for Sandra Bullock's 59th birthday

Jennifer Aniston celebrated her friend Sandra Bullock's 59th birthday on Wednesday by inviting her over to her Bel Air home for some baking fun.

Aniston shared a video on her Instagram Story of Bullock and another close pal, Will & Grace star Sean Hayes, making chocolate pumpkin brownies from Lil Luna in her spacious mid-century modern-style kitchen.

Bullock, who starred with Aniston in The Net and The Proposal, was in charge of mixing the ingredients in a bowl, while Hayes acted as her assistant. Aniston filmed the whole process and gave them instructions from behind the camera.

"What step are we at now, missy?" Bullock asked Aniston, who replied, "I'm folding it in!" Bullock then echoed



a joke that Aniston made, saying, "That's what he said," which made Hayes repeat it loudly and Bullock burst into laughter. 'The Lost City' star also jokingly chastised one of their friends who was off-camera, telling him, "Don't pick your nose and then tell us how to cook!"

The brownie recipe they were following involved canned pumpkin, chocolate, nuts, cin-

namon, nutmeg, and cloves, which seemed more appropriate for a fall-themed treat than a summer dessert. The 'Murder Mystery' star also posted several photos of Bullock on her Instagram Story to mark her birthday. She revealed that she calls Bullock "Sand-a-La" in the first photo, writing, "Happy Birthday Sand-a-La!!" She also shared a photo of them hugging at an event, a photo of

Bullock posing with a dog, and a photo of them wearing matching masks.

Bullock received a lot of love from her celebrity friends on her 59th birthday, including Octavia Spencer. The two acted together in A Time to Kill (1996) and Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous (2005).

Spencer, 53, posted a photo of her and Bullock grinning for the camera on Instagram, as well as a cute snap of them hugging at the 2012 Academy Awards ceremony.

She wrote a heartfelt message to the 59-year-old star in the caption.

"There are some people you meet whose impact goes far beyond their work:

their aura, their kindness, their joy. Sandra Bullock is one of those people. Please join me in the comments in wishing her a very happy birthday!"

'I love you': Selena Gomez extends sweet birthday wish to Francia Raisa despite previous rift

Selena Gomez shared a sweet message for Francia Raisa on her 35th birthday. Selena took to Instagram to share a series of photos, including a photo wearing similar clothes, and a snap in front of a white wall. "Happiest of birthdays to this special human being. No matter where life takes us, I love you," Selena captioned the carousel of photos.

Fans questioned the duo's friendship earlier this year after Selena made remarks in an interview with Rolling

Stones about Taylor Swift being her "only friend" in the industry. Francia seemed to react negatively to Selena's comments at the time. Notably, Francia donated a kidney to Selena in 2017.

Francia appears to have not reacted to Selena's post yet, but has shared photos of herself dressed in a two-piece string bikini in front of a "Happy Birthday" balloon banner on Instagram. "If I'm not in a bikini on my birthday then it's not my birthday," she captioned the post.

Selena Gomez's comment on Taylor Swift

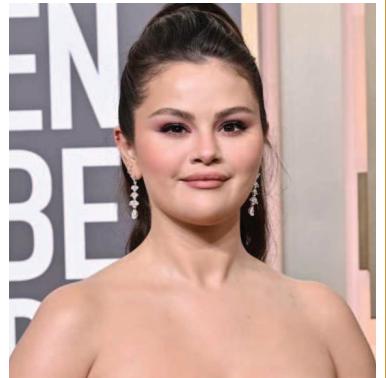
Selena spoke up about her fight to find her voice within the industry in an interview with Rolling Stone, saying, "I never fit in with a cool group of girls that were celebrities. My only friend in the industry really is Taylor (Swift), so I remember feeling like I didn't belong. I felt the presence of everyone around me living full lives. I had this position, and I was really happy, but... was I? Do these materialistic things make me happy?"

Later, E! News used the first half of the quote in an Instagram post celebrating Selena and Taylor's friendship, where Francia commented, "Interesting." Selena later seemingly responded to this on a TikTok, writing, "Sorry I didn't mention every person I know."

When Selena Gomez called Francia Raisa her "best friend" Selena said during an episode of Apple TV+'s documentary series 'Dear...' in March that she is "in debt" to Francia, and called Francia her

"best friend." "My best friend, Her name is Francia," she said. Of her illness and Francia's kidney donation, Selena said, "And within three days, she went to get tested, and she was a match. And it was one of those moments where I felt watched over. I know I was so, so lucky."

"I understand that that doesn't happen for a lot of people, and I know the outcome of some of these situations and how serious they are, so I do not take it lightly that it's happened to me that way," she



Microwaving plastic food containers releases billions of nanoplastics

A new study has shown that in plastic baby food containers lead to exposure to billions of nanoplastics

A new study has revealed that the most convenient way to heat food could lead to ingesting huge amounts of microplastics. From quickly reheating food to making mug cakes, microwaves have become an essential accompaniment in the kitchen. Now, a new study has revealed that microwaving plastic baby food containers can release massive amounts of nanoplastics and could be hazardous to health. Experiments by researchers



from the University of Nebraska have shown that in some cases reheating plastic baby food containers can release more than 2

billion nanoplastics and 4 million microplastics for every square centimeter of container, according to a press statement by the university.

The Nebraska research team further found that three-quarters of cultured embryonic kidney cells had died after two days of being exposed to the toxic particles released by the containers.

Kazi Altab Hussain, the study's lead author said it's important to understand how many micro- and nanoplastics

people are consuming. "When we eat specific foods, we are generally informed or have an idea about their caloric content, sugar levels, and other nutrients.

"I believe it's equally important that we are aware of the number of plastic particles present in our food," Hussain added in the statement.

The specific number of particles released when microwaving food depends on a myriad of factors including the type of plastic container and the food inside it.

HOW SNACKING CAN BE GOOD FOR HEALTH



Snacking has become popular, with a wide variety of foods hitting the shelves over the years. There has also been much debate about how snacking affects health. Now, a new study shows that snacking can benefit health if the focus is on quality, not quantity.

In a study presented at Nutrition 2023, researchers analysed snacking data of over 1,000 UK-based participants considering factors such as snacking quality, quantity, and timing as well as cardiometabolic markers. The study examined how snacking habits were linked to cardiometabolic health, according to Medical News Today.

The researchers found that higher-quality snacking was linked to better blood lipid and insulin responses. These snacks were defined as foods that had significant amounts of nutrients, according to Medical News Today. The findings also revealed that snacking after 9 p.m. was linked to worse blood glucose and lipid levels. However, more than quantity, the study indicated, the quality of the snacks mattered.

Choosing high-quality snacks over highly processed foods is likely to be beneficial, said study author Kate Bermingham in a press statement. Reiterating this, Dr. Elizabeth Raskin told Medical News Today that the findings show that food quality is important when it comes to health. "Diet is the cornerstone to health, and there are many ways to consume the nutrients that we need. Consumption of high quality, nutritious 'mini meals' may be a valuable adjunct to a well-balanced diet," Raskin added.

This is not the first study to show that snacking not quantity should be the focus when quality. In 2018, a study published in the journal JAMA showed that people who reduced consumption of added sugar, refined grains and highly processed foods and focused on eating whole foods, without counting calories or limiting portion sizes, reduced weight, as reported by ji news service.

Vegan diet massively better for the environment, new study confirms

A new study by Oxford scientists has found that plant-based diets have the least impact on the environment

It is well-known that meat has a significant impact on Earth and climate change, as shown by previous research. Now, a new study by Oxford scientists has confirmed that plant-based diets have the least impact on the environment.

The study assessed the environmental impacts of different diets: high and low meat, pescatarian (those who eat fish), vegetarian and vegan using dietary data from over 55,000 individuals. The findings by the team, from the Livestock, Environment and People (LEAP) project at the University of Oxford, showed that the dietary impacts of a plant-based diet

were about a third of those of high meat eaters, according to a press statement on the Oxford Alumni website.

Data on the environmental impact of each diet was examined considering its link to greenhouse gas emissions, land use, water use, water pollution risk and biodiversity loss, according to the statement. The assessment also took into account how and where food is produced. The paper is published in Nature Food.

The food system is estimated to be responsible for 70% of the world's freshwater use and 78% of freshwater pollution, according to the statement. Humans have affected the majority of land area



and deforestation continues to play a main role in biodiversity loss. "Our dietary choices have a big impact on the planet. Cherry-picking data on high-impact plant-based food or low-impact meat can obscure the clear relationship between animal-based foods and the environment," said lead author Peter Scarborough.

Saffron farming goes beyond Pampore in Kashmir, says study. The new findings showed that high-meat diets have the biggest impact on many important environmental indicators, such as climate change and biodiversity loss. Reducing the consumption of meat and dairy can make a substantial difference, he added.

Notably, the study that compared to high meat eaters, vegans contributed to just 27% of the impacts for water pollution, 46% for water use and 34% for biodiversity. There were at least 30% differences between low and high meat eaters across most of the indicators.

A 2019 systematic review published in the journal Sustainability found similar results, indicating that a plant-based diet is the best solution for the future. However, it also acknowledged the difficulty in practising it as the dietary recommendations might not sit well with cultural expectations and norms.

The comfort of lump rice and love cake in Sri Lanka

AN EDIBLE VESTIGE OF A DYING CULTURE, SRI LANKAN BURGERH CUISINE COMBINES ERSTWHILE DUTCH AND PORTUGUESE COLONIAL FLAVOURS WITH THE MYRIAD SPICES OF THE ISLAND NATION

Any first day of mine in Sri Lanka has its own set of must-dos. And yes, like any self-respecting foodie, almost each and every one of them pivots around the all-important food and drink axis. Perchance, my port of entry into the emerald Isle happens to be its bustling capital city of Colombo, then you can be sure I'll be paying obeisance to the two at a place I can never seem to get enough of.

Abbreviated to the more manageable VOC Cafe, this restaurant-cum-pastry shop forms the main raison d'être for me to visit the hallowed Dutch Burger Union that houses this cafe on its ground level. Nestled along the leafy Reid Avenue in the heart of Colombo and named after the



Verenigde Oost Indische Compagnie aka the Dutch East India Company, VOC Cafe is a repository for all things deliciously Burgerh.

Burgerh off To the uninitiated, the term Burgerh refers—much like our

desi brand of mixed ethnicity Anglo-Indians—to those Sri Lankan people who are the products of intermarriage between the local Sinhalese and the colonialists. First being Portuguese, who took over Sri Lanka in 1597, and then Dutch.

The latter entering Sri Lanka, then Ceylon in 1658, and remaining the rulers until the British arrival in 1796. As for the name Burgerh, this German-originated term simply translates to "residents of a city", and is related to the French word "bourgeois". While in Sri Lanka's main lingua franca of Sinhala, they were called "Lans", a term derived from Dutch Hollandsche, meaning inhabitant of Holland.

Interestingly, in Sri Lanka the term Burgerh is not just an identifier for a community that's sadly on the decline (emigration to places like Australia and New Zealand is the main reason, rue insiders), but also for said community's very unique blend of fusion cuisine. And at the very apex of Burgerh cuisine is the

much-fêted dish of lamprais. A mouth-wateringly delicious dish, that I believe is made the best at the aforementioned VOC Cafe.

Lump Sum Literally meaning lump rice, an analogy for lamprais can once again be drawn to both the Indian biryani and to the thali. Packed tight into a banana leaf and then steamed, the parcel has as its base the local Sri Lankan short-grained samba rice. Atop this sits a dryish mixed meat curry made from a combination of chicken, mutton, pork or beef, a piece of fried eggplant called brinjai pahi, a dab of the sweet onion seeni sambol, fried ash plantain and two frikkadels or round cutlets that are also called Dutch meatballs around the world.

How a cyclist rode from Manali to Leh in record time

Six years ago, Vedangi Kulkarni took on her first cycling adventure, riding some 471km from Manali to Leh solo, before continuing onwards to Drass. The heady high of altitude and distance had her hooked. She was only 17. It made her realise how far she could go on a modest pair of wheels. Two years later, Kulkarni, who is based in Scotland, rode around the world in 159 days, only the fourth woman—as well as the youngest—to pull off the feat. Soon, her life revolved around cycling. When her mentor, cyclist Sumit Patil, suggested she ride the Manali-Leh highway again, she knew she had to go.

"Sumit dada proposed the idea of targeting the record for the fastest time on this stretch. It made sense to come back to where it all started for me," she says. And on 15 June, Kulkarni, now 24, finished the project in 2 days 3 hours and 49 minutes. She had bettered the previous mark by over three hours; the timing is currently being ratified by Guinness World Records. The ride had been demanding at times, forcing her to dig deep. It reminded her just why she was drawn to these feats of endurance, ever since that first



ride. "No matter what discipline of cycling I'm involved with today or at what level I'm doing it, I just feel at home in the saddle. I think all my experiences have made me brave and resilient," she says. She arrived in Leh

on 9 May, and, once acclimatised to the altitude, started logging an average of 300-500km each week around town in her cycle around town.

She rode as high as the Khardung La (5,359 metres), an elevation gain of around 2,000 metres, and as far as

Upsi on the longest ride of over 100km. Much of the specific training was done on an indoor trainer, where she focussed on increasing her cadence.

"The idea was to make it easier on the muscles during climbs. But training

indoors is totally not my thing; I much prefer riding outdoors," she says. Kulkarni also focussed on her nutrition and recovery, something she's fallen short on during multiple rides in the

had a river flowing across it. I had to take off my shoes and socks, and carry my bicycle to get past it," she recalls.

The climb to Baralacha La seemed never-ending, with the only relief

INDIAN CYCLIST VEDANGI KULKARNI SET A NEW TIME RECORD BY COVERING THE FAMOUS HIMALAYAN ROUTE IN TWO DAYS. THIS IS HOW SHE DID IT

past. All along, she had one eye on the weather, awaiting any news of the Manali-Leh highway being thrown open. "I pretty much sat through all of May checking the forecast. I had other commitments mid-June, so it was touch and go by the time my opportunity finally arrived," she says.

At 2am on 13 June, Kulkarni set off from Mall Road in Manali. The climb to Rohtang La (3,978m)—the first of the five high passes she would encounter along the way—was exhilarating. But she soon realised the terrible road conditions in store for her, especially since the highway had just opened up after a late winter.

"Between Patsio and Zingzing Bar, there was a section that quit literally

being a sighting of a magnificent Himalayan wolf. A bumpy descent through towering snow walls finally brought her to Bharatpur, where she settled in for an hour-long sleep break. All along, Kulkarni was tended to by a crew of four that included Patil and Kulkarni's father, Vivek.

"Since I don't take nutrition very seriously, they kept feeding me—everything from lychees to parathas and chips and chocolate bars—which is exactly what you want on a ride like this.

They would even run alongside me during the moments I fell sleepy. It was overwhelming to see these folks take time out of their busy lives to be there for me," she says.

JJM: Distt B'la records 75% achievement under Household Tap Connections

Dr Sehrish compliments Team B'la for the feat; reiterates her commitment for 100% saturation under the scheme

JI NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA, JULY 27: Under Har Ghar Nal Se Jal' programme, the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) Baramulla has achieved a milestone by recording 75% achievement under Household Tap connections by providing adequate drinking water connections to the identified populace.

Marching towards achieving the set target of 145696, a total of 109336 households, schools, Anganwadi centres and other public institutions have been provided with safe portable tap



water in the district and the mission continues to make rapid

strides towards achieving 'Har Ghar Jal' dream.

Extending appreciation with regard to the achievement, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar complimented the team of officers for this feat and reiterated her commitment for 100% saturation under the scheme.

Dr Sehrish said that the progress achieved in the said sector is a remarkable journey for the mission as it has resulted in significant socio-economic benefits to the rural population. Elaborating it, Dr Sehrish said

that the regular tap water supply has given a great relief to the people, especially women and young girls, who earlier carried heavy bucket loads of water from far-fetched areas to meet their daily household needs and now, the time saved, can be used for income generation activities, learning new skills and supporting children's education.

Meanwhile, the DC also laid emphasis on the executing JJM service to redouble their efforts so that cent percent saturation and desired target is achieved within the stipulated

Ramban: SFCAC Committee discusses Foster care cases



JI NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, JULY 27: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mussarat Islam today chaired a meeting of Sponsorship and Foster Care Approval Committee (SFCAC) here in his office chamber.

The meeting was attended by ADC Harbans Sharma; ACR, Giasul Haq; DSWO, Rahul Gupta and other concerned officers.

The meeting discussed the cases for children in need of assistance. The DSWO informed that the Committee has identified several cases and the Child Welfare Committee will scrutinize the documents as per the criteria to shortlist 58 cases. The Committee discussed individual cases and the DC asked to forward the cases to the Child Welfare Committee for further evaluation and approval.

Once approved, the children will be provided appropriate assistance as per government norms. The committee also keeps track of the progress of the approved cases and reports any anomalies that may occur during the proceedings. In addition to this, members of the committee also act as mentors to support the children in achieving a better life.

Earlier, the DSWO gave a power-point presentation and brief the meeting that the assistance is given to the children like children without home, victim of any natural calamity, child labour, trafficked child, HIV/AIDS affected child and child beggars in need of care and protection as per JJ Act 2015.

DC reviews arrangements for Urs Qamarud-Din Bukhari at Ganderbal

JI NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL, JULY 27: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir today chaired a meeting to review and finalize the arrangements for Urs Mubarak Hazrat Qamarud-Din Bukhari at Reshipora Saloora, here.

During the meeting, it was informed that the urs mubarak shall commence from 23rd August to 1st September and the main congregation shall be held at Hazrat Qamarud-Din Bukhari Reshipora Saloora. At the outset, threedbare discussion was held regarding finalization of the arrangements for power supply, adequate safe drinking water supply, firefighting measures, traffic and parking plan, sanitation measures in and around the shrine, health, installation of stalls and other related arrangements. Municipal Council Ganderbal was directed to ensure cleanliness in and around the shrine and



installation of street lights wherever required and temporary mobile toilets near the shrine. The Executive Engineer PDD was directed to ensure 24*7 power supply in the area besides availability of gen set at the main venue. Similarly, the police and forest officials were directed to ensure proper security and traffic regulations on routes leading to the shrine where large congregations are expected. The ARTO was directed to make proper transport and parking arrangements in coordination with Dy. SP traffic and shall decide the plan for 'no entry zone' in

advance for smooth plying of vehicular traffic during Urs days. The meeting also discussed restoration of navigation channels for hassle free movement of motor boats, Shikaras carrying devotees to Ziyarat for observance of Urs Qamar Din Bukhari. The DC directed I&FC and Forest departments to carry joint inspection of the water route and clear all obstacles in the water channel including weeds, bushes for smooth ply of water transport. The meeting also finalized the arrangements for conducting cultural programmes, decoration,

installation of Public Address System, installation of amusement equipment and shamyana.

The DC impressed that Urs shall be celebrated with great fervour and vigour. He exhorted upon all the departments to work in coordination and ensure all arrangements are put in place on time for smooth conduct of Urs.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Ganderbal, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani; Dy. SP HQ, Executive Engineers of Jal Shakti and R&B, Tehsildar Ganderbal, CMO, ARTO, representatives of Qamariya Auqaf Trust and other concerned.

DC B'la review pace & progress of Works/Projects in the district

Put in every effort to achieve timely & desired results: Dr Sehrish directs Officers

JI NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA, JULY 27: In order to take an appraisal of physical and financial progress of various developmental works being executed in the district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish today presided over a meeting of concerned officers at DC Office Complex, here.

At the outset, the chair was appraised about the current status of different works besides a detailed sketch was presented about the implementation of various centrally sponsored schemes including CSR.

After reviewing the sector wise progress of the works, Dr Sehrish Asgar impressed upon all the departments to complete the estimation, tendering and allotment of works within the timelines so that all the developmental works could be completed within the time bound manner.

The DC issued on the spot instructions to officers of concerned departments to strictly adhere to quality specifications and ensure close monitoring for quality of works. She asked the construction JJ news service to put in their best efforts to achieve the targets within a fixed timeframe. The meeting was attended by Joint Director Planning, M.Yousuf Rather; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Gulzar Ahmad Khan; Chief Education Officer Baramulla, Chief Horticulture Officer, Executive Engineers of R&B/ PHE besides functionaries of other concerned departments.



DC Rajouri reviews functioning of Revenue Department

Calls for efficient delivery of public services



JI NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, JULY 27: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, today took a comprehensive review of the functioning of Revenue Department here at a meeting.

The DC discussed important issues related to delivery of public service and time bound grievances redressal. He emphasized the importance of implementing the e-office working system at the Tehsil level and directed officials to ensure the implementation of CLU rules in letter and spirit.

The DC reviewed the Geo-tagging of digitized cadastral maps and directed officials to expedite the process for effective land management and planning. A threedbare discussion was also held on the pendency of High Court cases.

The meeting also focused on progress made in the agricultural census, which is critical for better understanding of the needs of the farming community. The DC directed officials to ensure that the data is digitized and made available to the public. Furthermore, the DC directed the Tehsildars to hold regular meetings with the Chowkidars and Lambardars in their respective Tehsils to ensure better coordination between Revenue officers and local stakeholders, which will help resolve issues at the grassroots level.

Overall, the meeting was a significant step towards ensuring efficient public service and prompt grievance redressal in the Revenue Department. The DC emphasized on accessibility, accountability and better public services to improve the lives of the people of Rajouri. The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Rajeev Khajuria; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Imran Rashid Kataria; DIO NIC, Muzafar Mir and Tehsildars.

AKAM: Swachta Abhiyan kick-started for cleanliness of Pulwama Town

JI NEWS SERVICE

PULWAMA, JULY 27: As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM), the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom today kick-started two week long Swachta Abhiyan for cleanliness of Dhoobi Khul, lanes, by-lanes and streets of Pulwama town.

In this regard, a walkathon under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan lead by DC was started from DC Office and culminated at Shaheed Farooq Chowk Pulwama in which officers/Officials from Civil departments, PRI members from Pulwama, traders, members



from Pulwama Chamber of Commerce, Volunteers, Civil Society members, Students, Municipal Council members of Pulwama, besides local youth participated. Students on the occasion were seen holding placards/banners

and raising slogans to create awareness among the people regarding Clean Pulwama Swachh Pulwama and cleanliness as collective responsibility.

All the participants resolved to keep the town clean and waste free. Special focus is being laid on cleanliness of Dhoobi khul that passes through the heart of town.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that all identified locations where garbage is found are to be cleaned during the drive. Besides, the aim of launching this mega sanitation drive is to spread the message of public involvement in sanitation and sensitize them about the importance of cleanliness.

A sense of responsibility has been evoked among the people through the Clean India Movement and citizens are now becoming active participants in cleanliness activities across the nation, DC said. Dr Basharat reiterated that the drive is not just about cleaning surroundings but also seeking the participation of people in planting trees, creating trash-free environment, providing sanitation facilities and paving a way for Swachh Bharat eventually. He also urged the locals, Govt. employees, Panchayat members and students to carry cleanliness drives in their areas to ensure all-round cleanliness of the district.

Doda hosts 2-day Lal Draman Festival from Aug 5

DC REVIEWS PROGRESS ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEGA EVENT

JI NEWS SERVICE

DODA, JULY 27: The 2-day Lal Draman festival (Youth Conclave) is scheduled to start from August 5 in the sprawling Lal Draman meadows. In the run up to hosting the much anticipated Lal Draman festival, Deputy Commissioner Vishesh Mahajan, along with SSP Abdul Qayoom today, chaired a meeting to review the progress on arrangements being made for the mega event. The meeting was attended ADC, Dr R.K. Bharti; Joint Director Tourism, Sunaina Mehta (Virtually); SE, PWD, RP Singh; ACD, Phtuail Singh; ACP, Ashfaq Khanji; GM DIC, Idrees Lone; DFO, DSWO, CEO, DIO, DPO, AD Tourism Bate (Virtually), DYSSO, Ex. Ens of PHE, PDD and PWD, Cultural Officer and representative of GDC Doda.



decided earlier. It was informed that the road leading to Lal Draman shall be traffic worthy by 2nd of August. A Kabaddi Championship, besides other games and sports would be held during the festival. Only Metadoors and light motor vehicles shall be allowed to the Festival Site. The concerned officers assured to make available an adequate number of tents, make provision of water and electricity supply,

deployment of personnel for security, installation of power generators, lights, sound system and other necessary amenities by August 2. To maintain cleanliness and hygiene, the Deputy Commissioner directed the officials to deploy an adequate number of sanitation staff two days prior to the event. Further, he urged the Power Development Department (PDD) and the Municipal Committee Doda to take measures for proper lighting at the venue and the approach paths leading to it, to ensure a hassle-free experience for the visitors. The adventure sports and activities to be organized during the festival, including marathons, zip-lining, kabaddi, and cultural programs were discussed and the departments involved assured to make all the arrangements well in advance. To promote awareness and community participation, the Assistant Commissioner of

Panchayat was asked to organize a painting competition, focusing on cleanliness and maintaining a pristine environment.

The Chief Medical Officer was asked to deploy a medical care team during the festival, including the deployment of specialist doctors of orthopaedics, gynecology and physician. Moreover, the Principal GDC Doda and CEO informed that the students above 8th class shall participate in the Idea Exchange programme and other sports and cultural activities in the festival. The Deputy Commissioner also encouraged both government and private schools to actively participate in the festival to create a vibrant atmosphere.

With these comprehensive arrangements and a dedicated team of officials, the Youth Conclave/Lal Draman festival in Doda promises to be an unforgettable event, showcasing the cultural vibrancy and natural beauty of the region.

Nowshera Forest Division, 72 BN CRPF conduct mega plantation drive

JI NEWS SERVICE

NOWSHERA, JULY 27: Sunderbani Forest Range of Nowshera Forest Division today conducted a mega plantation drive on the campus of 72 BN CRPF Sunderbani.

Kailash Chander Ahlawat, the second-in-command CRPF Sunderbani along with officers of all ranks and Jawans planted scores of plants in the premises. Sudesh Kumar Sharma, Range Officer Sunderbani; Rajinder Dev Sharma, Block Officer Dharansal and Ravi Kant from Range office played active role in the plantation drive.

The Range Officer Sunderbani apprised the officers and jawans of CRPF about the objectives of Green J&K drive. He said that institutional plantation plays a vital role in the conservation of green cover. He inspected the old plantations inside the campus which were well raised and maintained. Prabhakar Nayak, Dy. Commandant said that CRPF is carrying out the plantation every year and the success rate of the plantation raised inside the campus is quite satisfactory.

The drive was conducted under the overall supervision of Vivek Verma, Conservator of Forests West Circle Rajouri and Satyendra Maurya, Divisional Forest Officer Nowshera.

DC Jammu reviews implementation of National Clean Air Programme

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JULY 27: Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Avny Lavasa, today chaired a meeting to review the implementation of National Clean Air Programme and discussed the actionable points under it.

Threadbare discussion was held on the actionable points including restriction on plying/phasing out of 15 years old commercial vehicles, introduction of cleaner fuel like CNG/LPG, launching of extensive drive against polluting vehicles, monitoring of vehicles fitness certificate, traffic management, development of multi layer parking, development of



green belt areas, plantation of tree along with roads, covering of construction sites, installation of air pollution control devices in industries, shifting/ban on polluting industries etc.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed the concerned officials to robust the activities to

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

She instructed the J&K

roads and take measures to develop green-belt in open areas. She also directed to ensure measures for minimizing emission.

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

She also stressed the officers to ensure all hotspots related to air pollution are covered so that necessary measures are incorporated in the City Action Plan.

Commissioner JMC Rahul Yadav, besides senior officers of other concerned departments attended the meeting.

Deputy Commissioner Poonch reviews progress of Jal Jeevan Mission schemes

JI NEWS SERVICE

POONCH, JULY 27: Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Yasin M Choudhary, today chaired a meeting to review the progress of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in the district.

The meeting was attended by SE Hydraulic Rajinder Kumar Sharma; XEN PHE, Riaz Ahmed, besides all AEs, AEs, JEs, other concerned officers and contractors who briefed the Deputy Commissioner about the status of JJM in their respective areas.

During the meeting, SE Hydraulic, Ej Rajinder K Sharma gave a presentation through PPT on the current status of JJM in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned Junior Engineers (JEs) and Assistant Engineers (AEs) to ensure that all machinery and motors are in working condition so that the public does not face any difficulties.

The District Development Commissioner took a serious view of slow progress of JJM works and delay was reported due to lapse on the part of the Contractors/ji news service allotted the works. He directed the Executive Engineer PHE Division Poonch to act tough against the slow moving contractors and terminate the contracts of all such works where the progress is slow and completion of the schemes are over delayed.

The Deputy Commissioner asked the forest, revenue, and police departments to cooperate with the Jal Shakti Department in resolving the local issues coming in way of smooth execution of JJM works

The Deputy Commissioner directed all officers to work with dedication and honesty without any fail, otherwise, strict action will be taken against defaulters. He also stressed the need to achieve the 100% target of JJM in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner further directed all field engineers to visit their sites regularly and ensure the works are executed strictly as per specifications ensuring timely completion of JJM in the district.

CBC Multimedia Exhibition at Gulabgarh

Impressive Display of Gol's Milestones marks Day -2

JI NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, JULY 27: Amid the ongoing annual Machail Mata Yatra, the Multimedia Exhibition organized by the Central Bureau for Communication, Government of India, here at Gulabgarh mini stadium Ground Paddar, witnessed an enthusiastic participation of people and students on the 2nd day, today.

Besides the display banners, special lectures by resource persons and Officers shed light on the significant milestones achieved during the 9 years of Governance, along with the Seva Sussashan and Garib Kalyan initiatives, Mission Life and Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) program. The event was graced by dignitaries, Tehsilidar Atholi Satish Singh Rana, Sarpanch Gulabgarh Manohar Lal Manhas, Principal GDC Paddar Dr. Subash Chander.

The programme was conducted under the overall supervision of CBC,



Field officer Doda Circle, Vikram Uppal and with the cooperation of Field Officer, Rojouri Sunil Kumar. About 200 students, Anganwadi Workers (AWWS), ASHAs, prominent personalities, local PRIs, and staff members from different departments and education institutions, along with the common masses were present on the occasion. The program commenced with a warm welcome address by the Incharge CBC Rajouri, Sunil Kumar.

Various media engagements, including display banners and stalls exhibiting the departmental schemes and the screening of an exclusive film produced by the District Administration on the glo-

rious history of Paddar, the revered Machail Mata pilgrimage, and the Victory trek of General Zorawar Singh, enlightened the participants. The programs offered insightful presentations on the central and Union Territory government's rolled-out schemes.

Departmental Experts passionately shared the information and achievements with the attendees. The occasion was made vibrant with enthralling cultural performances by talented artists from Jammu reflecting the cultural diversity of the region. An interactive open quiz competition added excitement to the event, encouraging participants to showcase their knowledge. The winners were reward-

ed with gifts in recognition of their correct answers, and the dignitaries and resource persons were also felicitated with trophies.

Earlier, the dignitaries, accompanied by Field Officer Circle Doda, inspected the stalls set up by different departments showcasing government schemes and the display banners exhibiting the milestones of the government.

Addressing the gathering, Sarpanch Gulabgarh Paddar extended heartfelt gratitude to the Central Bureau of Communication, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and District administration for organizing this exhibition, which effectively highlighted the remarkable achievements of the 9 years of Government for the awareness of the people.

He also said that the majority of the welfare schemes have been implemented at the grassroots level in his Panchayats and shared praiseworthy words for the government and Administration.

DDC vice-chairperson Udhampur for nurturing facilities around Devika

JI NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, JULY 27: Juhu Manhas Pathania, Vice Chairperson District Development Council, Udhampur today underscored the need for developing site seeing facilities around Devika while it passes outside Udhampur as well.

While interacting with a deputation of villages flanking the historical township of Udhampur, she said that people of Udhampur are thankful to the Bharat Sagar as well as local MP for sanctioning a mega project for District Udhampur and a major amount of the project is being used for developing/nurturing sewerage facilities in Udhampur town.

Visiting deputation underscored the need for expanding the scope of developmental activities around The Holy Devika while it meanders through the flanks of Udhampur. She further called for nurturing state-of-art facilities, may it be Nainsoo, Batta Balian, Manpa, Dhanouri, Badali, villages. The Ghats and ancient temples have always been a prime source of tourism and attract thousands of devotees.

A deputation of Shiv Mandir Committee, Nainsoo, called upon the Vice Chairperson for directing the district administration to provide support for organising annual Dargal and 'Baisakhi Mela' at Shiv Mandir Nainsoo. Also they called for funds to construct protection work to protect the holy Shiv temple from landslides. They also called for developing a stadium (indoor as well as outdoor block) benefiting the local populace of the area.

With regard to the recent transfers of teachers, she called for the immediate setting up of a review committee. The review committee should review all the transfers done by the Department of School Education.

PM-KISAN scheme: Live streaming of PM's address, release of 14th installment organised across Jammu division

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JULY 27: JAMMU, JULY 27: The live streaming of release of 14th installment of PM-KISAN scheme and launching of multiple initiatives by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi at Sikar Rajasthan was today organised by Department of Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Jammu through its offices at district and block levels.

A programme was held at Baba Jitro, Kissan Kendra, Talab Tillo with Director Agriculture Production & Farmers' Welfare Department Jammu, K.K. Sharma as the chief guest and Vikram Randhawa, Ex-MLC as the guest of honour.

During the main event at Sikar, Rajasthan Honorable Prime minister, Narendra Modi released 14th installment to over 8.5 crore farmers amounting to Rs 17,000 crores by click of a button. The total amount transferred to the beneficiaries since the inception of the scheme crossed well over Rs 2.59 lakh crore. This financial assistance will support farmers in meeting their daily needs and contribute to their overall well-being.

Further, the Prime Minister dedicated 1.25 lakh PM Kisan Samridhi Kendras to the Nation. Government is converting the retail fertilizer shops in the country into PMKSKs in a phased manner. PMKSKs will cater to a wide variety of needs of the farmers and provide agrinputs (fertilizers, seeds, and implements), testing facilities for soil, seeds, and fertilizers; generate awareness among farmers; provide information regarding various government schemes



and ensure regular capacity building of retailers at block/district level outlets.

PM also launched the Sulphur Coated Urea (Urea Gold). This innovative fertilizer is more economical and efficient than Neem-Coated urea, ensuring improved nitrogen use efficiency, reduced consumption, and enhanced crop quality. Director Agriculture Jammu, in his address, informed that e-KYC has been made mandatory for receiving benefits under PM-KISAN, and the same is currently being done with assistance of field staff of the department through mobile app with face recognition feature. He also informed that e-KYC of about 7.5 lakh farmers have been verified and uploaded. He also shared the details of achievements under various social security schemes for stabilizing the income of Farmers.

At Reasi: A programme for viewing live streaming of the release of 14th installment of the PM Kisan Saman Nidhi scheme by Prime Minister Narendra Modi was arranged by the department of agriculture pro-

duction and farmers welfare Reasi. DDC Chairman Saraf Singh Nag, District Development Commissioner Reasi Babila Rakwal, Additional District Development Commissioner Reasi Jyoti Slatiha, BDC Chairman Reasi, Sarpanches, PRI members and farmers of adjoining villages. Chief Agriculture Officer Reasi Harbans Singh in his welcome address told that 29077 farmers of the District will be benefited by transfer of Rs 5.81 crore through DBT in their account for purchase of various agriculture inputs.

Chairman District Development council Saraf Singh Nag said that 8.5 crore farmers will be benefited throughout India with transfer of more than 17000 crore directly in their accounts and stressed for covering of all eligible beneficiaries.

At KVK Samba: Krishi Vitayan Kendra Samba organized a live telecast of the PM-Kisan Scheme which was attended by 265 farmers, farm women and rural youth from different villages of district Samba. The programme started with

the welcome address by Prof. Sanjay Khajuria, Chief Scientist & Head KVK Samba. He welcomed the Vice Chairman DDC Samba, Balwan Singh- the Chief Guest and the progressive farmers as well as farm women of the district. He disclosed that very soon various projects will be launched in the district for the welfare of the farming community.

The DDC Vice Chairman lauded the efforts of KVK Samba towards the welfare of the farmers in the district. He promised to provide every type of help to the KVK Samba as and when required.

At Doda: Chief Agriculture Officer Anil Gupta organized a get-together for eligible farmers to attend the virtual screening of the release of the 14th installment of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Saman Nidhi Yojana.

The Chief Agriculture Officer, along with the staff of the Agriculture Department warmly welcomed a large gathering of eligible farmers at the Chief Agriculture Office Doda for a virtual interaction with the Prime Minister.

At Ramban, Live streaming regarding the release of 14th installment of PM Kisan Saman Nidhi Scheme by Prime Minister Narendra Modi was hosted by the Department of Agriculture Ramban.

The Additional District Development Commissioner, Rajinder Sharma, DDC Member Ramban Renuka Katoch, Sarpanches, Panches, PRI members, Chief Agriculture officer, Ram Gopal Sharma, SDAO Sudhir Manhas, AEOs, JAEs, other field functionaries besides large number of farmers virtually

attended the programme.

Farmers hailed the message of the Prime Minister for promoting Agro based start-ups and pro-farmers initiatives.

At Udhampur: An impressive programme was organized by Agriculture Department Udhampur here at Panchayat Kasirah, on the occasion of the Prime Minister Kisan Samridhi Kendra at Kasirah was inaugurated by Chairman District Development Council, Udhampur, Lal Chand in presence of Sanjay Anand, Chief Agriculture Officer, other officials and progressive farmers of the area.

Addressing the gathering, the DDC Chairperson appealed to the farmers to make efficient use of the amount disbursed under PM Kisan Saman Nidhi Yojana.

Similar programme was held at all Blocks & Panchayats of the District in presence of PRI members and progressive farmers.

KVK Kathua: The live web-casting of the programme organised at KVK Kathua was presided over by the Chairman DDC Kathua, Mahan Singh. Vice Chairman DDC Raghunandan Singh, Sarpanches, Panches, Ward members, progressive farmers, Farm Women and the officers from Department of Agriculture were also present.

Chairman DDC Mahan Singh, while interacting with farmers, appreciated the efforts of the union government for taking an array of steps for the welfare of the farming community. He emphasised upon the development of clusters for specialised products to harvest greater profits.

No outbreak of FMD at village Khiram & adjacent paties; only a few sporadic cases reported: DIO Anantnag

Says cases treated concurrently as routine affair, whole area already taken up for FMD vaccination from July, 13th

JI NEWS SERVICE

ANANTNAG, JULY 27: On receipt of information regarding outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease among the live stock at village Khiram and adjacent paties (Gojar Basti), a team of experts headed by Disease Investigation Officer (DIO) Anantnag was rushed to the area to take stock of the situation. The necessary instructions were passed on to the team to ascertain the facts of the news, and ensure all the ailing livestock of the area, if any, are examined and provided necessary medication. It was also ordered to ensure that the rest of the animals are vaccinated against foot and mouth disease without any fail.

Disease Investigation Officer Anantnag along with a team of experts visited the area on 24th July and reported that no such outbreak of FMD is prevalent. Only a few sporadic cases have been reported which have been treated concurrently as a routine affair.

The whole area has already been taken up for FMD vaccination from 13th of July on Mission mode and 400 doses were conducted till date.

Doda admin bids farewell to outgoing Tehsilidar

JI NEWS SERVICE

DODA, JULY 27: Shabir Ahmed Malik, a native of Jammu, who served as Tehsilidar Doda for about five years, was given an emotional and warm send-off on his transfer from the district.

Having served the district for a period of five years, Shabir Ahmed Malik's unbiased approach and commitment to public service touched the hearts of many.

Under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Vishesh Mahajan along with SSP Doda Abdul Qayoom, the District Administration orchestrated a grand farewell function at Baderwah to honour the Tehsilidar on his transfer.

The event was attended by ADCC, Pran Singh, ADC, Dr. Ravi Kumar Bharti, ACR, Sanjeev Kumar, CPO, Suresh Kumar, ACD, Phulaj Singh, Dy Director Employment, Idrees Lone, SDMs, Tehsilidars, and District and Sectoral Officers.

Over 22000 farmers get 14th installment under PM-KISAN at Ganderbal

GANDERBAL, JULY 27: In favour of release of 14th installment of Rs. 17000 Crores on the eve of 8.5 Crore beneficiaries of PM-KISAN by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, the Department of Agriculture District Ganderbal in collaboration with District Administration Ganderbal organized a function at district level in the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat Ganderbal.

The event was presided over by Additional District Development Commissioner Ganderbal, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani along with Chief Agriculture Officer Ganderbal, Rander Sharma and District Agriculture Officer Ganderbal, Farooq Ahmad Sofi.

More than 50 farmers of the district besides field functionaries of the department participated in the said event.

The programme was also organized throughout the district at different Agriculture zones of the department where in an ample number of farmers participated. It is worth mentioning here that more than 22000 eligible farmers of the district are registered under the PM-KISAN.

District Jammu Handball Championship concludes



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU 27 July: Three days 8th District Jammu Handball Championship in Senior, Junior (Boys and Girls) at Playfield Shastri Nager Jammu concluded today. The championship is being organized by Handball Association

Jammu in collaboration with J&K Handball Association and Sponsored by J&K Sports Council. Arun Bangotra Principal Govt. Polytechnic Jammu was the chief guest in the valedictory function of the championship, who interacted with the teams and exhorted them to play the game earnestly with the true sportsmanship. He also distributed prizes among the winners and runners-up teams on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, Arun said, 'J&K is rich in sports talent and sportsmen from here have proven their mettle at different national and international championships. The organizing secretary of the tournament was Ashwani Kumar Raina who welcomed all the guests, officials and participants and presented the welcome address. Others members of JKHA were also present on the occasion. The final match in Girls section was played between Bahu Club and R.L. Pissu in which Bahu Club emerged winner by 8-2 goals. In the Boys section, the final match was played between STC Jammu and R.L. Pissu in which STC Jammu emerged winner by 24-20 goals. The matches were officiated by Richa Mandela, Kashish Baru, Sulekha and Anu

Basohli Forest Division organises plantation drive on JNV Campus

KATHUA, JULY 27: Basohli Forest Division today conducted a Plantation drive at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Basohli where a wide variety of religious, ornamental and tree species plants were planted as part of Greening J&K 2023-24 Drive of Forest Department.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Dy.CE/GSU/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www.reps.gov.in) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.

Tender No.	Name of work	App. Cost. (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Completion period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars
27-Elec/ GSU-1-16/2023-24	Electrical works in c/w/with soft upgradation of the stations under Amrit Bharat Stations Scheme (ABSS) covering various areas viz. Improvement of lighting to traffic circulation, circulating area, entrance porch, Platforms, Platform shelters, existing station building, toilets, foot over bridge and facade lighting including other ancillary works at Muktsar, Firuzpur cantt and Moga Railway Station.	24654127.61	273300.00	06 Months	17.08.2023 after 15.00 Hrs.	www.reps.gov.in

Open Tender Notice No. NIT-16/2023-24 Dated: 27.07.2023

2325/23

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

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

e-mail: xennorth@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 147 of 2023-24

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

S. No.	Name of work	Cost of document/ tender fee (in Rs.)	Earnest money (in Rs.)	Validity of Rates	Bid validity
1.	Fishing out Sub pump motor set of specification 20000 GPH x 110 MH x 60 HP of Tubewell Guest house.	200/-	02% of the Quoted amount	180 days	180 days

Date of Publishing : 26-07-2023 02.00 pm.

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 26-07-2023 (02.00 pm).
- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 26-07-2023 (02.00 pm) to 08-08-2023 (02.00 pm).
- The complete bidding process will be online <http://jktenders.gov.in>.
- The Technical bids received shall be opened online on 09-08-2023 (02.00 pm) or any other subsequent date in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division North Jammu.
- The Financial bid of the bidders shall be opened online after scrutinizing the technical bid in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- Cost of bidding document in shape of e-challan/single window challan of JMC pledged to Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu/tender fee receipt through online payment through the JMC link <http://www.jmcjammu.org/online-payment.html>
- The original instruments in respect of cost of document, EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR and other relevant document of L₁ bidder will be required to be submitted to the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu after opening of financial bids on line. No separate intimation about opening of financial bids will be sent by this office / by the tender opening authority. In case the original documents are not submitted by the L₁ bidder opening of financial bid, the tender will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further / future tendering process in the division for a period of one year.
- The date and time of opening of financial bids will be notified on website <http://jktenders.gov.in> and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.
- The original documents when submitted by L₁ bidder for the cost of tender documents, specified in the tender document should be same as uploaded on line (Scanned copies) otherwise allotment will not be issued, the tenders will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further / future tendering process in the division for a period of one year.
- Bid security of successful tenderer will have to be in form of CDR/FDR of any scheduled bank and shall have to be valid for 180 days after last date of receipt of bid.
- Only such firms should submit tender, who have requisite infrastructure and workshop facility for carrying out similar type of job which may be inspected by the competent authority before awarding the job contract so as to access the working capacity of the tenderer. The workmanship and material used should be of high quality and as per the specifications of the job order / tender.
- The bid for the execution of work shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the earnest money of the firm shall stand forfeited.
- The tenderers are advised to visit the site of work / inspect the parts to be fabricated before uploading their tenders so as to acquaint themselves with exact measurement and site conditions.

JSM/DNJ/2188-90
Dated: 25-07-2023

DIP/J-5838/23

SD/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
JAL SHAKTI MECH. DIVISION NORTH
JAMMU

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY ENVIRONMENT AND REMOTE SENSING OFFICE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SOIL CONSERVATIONIST

PARYAVARAN BHAWAN TRANSPORT NAGAR GLADNI NARWAL JAMMU.

Email: escjmu@rediffmail.com Fax/Ph No: 0191-2490777

E-TENDERING

TENDER NOTICE: NIT No. 01 of 2023-24, Dated: 25.07.2023

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir UT, the office of Environmental Soil Conservationist, DEERS Jammu invites e-tenders from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Union Territory Govt./CPWD for the following works:-

S.No.	Name of work	Adv. Cost (₹. in Lacs)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document	Time of completion	Receiving /Opening Authority
1	Repair of wall near museum at Environment Park, Raika	0.92	Rs 1840/=	D	Rs.100/-	15 days	Tender Opening Committee
2	Painting works at Environment Park, Raika 1. Painting of Chainlink fencing. 2. Polishing / Painting of ticket booth. 3. Polishing of Amphitheatre. 4. Painting & Whitewashing of old buildings.	0.79	Rs 1580/=	D	Rs.100/-	15 days	Tender Opening Committee
3	Repair & Maintenance of Sculptures at Environment Park, Raika	0.28	Rs 560/=	D	Rs.100/-	15 days	Tender Opening Committee
4	Repair & Raising of Retaining wall in lawns at Environment Park, Raika	0.50	Rs 1000/=	D	Rs.100/-	15 days	Tender Opening Committee

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligible % of liability 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: <http://jktenders.gov.in>

Event	Date
Publishing Date	25-07-2023
Download Start Date	26-07-2023 From 4:00 PM
Bid Submission Start Date	26-07-2023 From 6:00 PM
Bid submission End Date	02-08-2023 up to 6:00 PM
Date of opening of Technical Bid (online)	03-08-2023 at 01:00 PM (in the Office of Environmental Soil Conservationist)
Date of opening of Financial Bid (online)	03-08-2023 at 2:00 PM (in the Office of Environmental Soil Conservationist)

Position of funds: Budgeted
Positions of AATS: Accorded

01. The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website: - <https://jktenders.gov.in>. The complete bidding process will be online.

No:-DEERS/ESC/E-30/2023/482-84
Dated:- 25 -07-2023

SD/-
ENVIRONMENTAL SOIL CONSERVATIONIST
ECOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT & REMOTE SENSING
JAMMU

DIP/J-5840/23

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION UDHAMPUR SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 85 of 2023-24 Dated 24.07.2023

(SINGLE COVER SYSTEM)

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No.	Name of Work	Advertised Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs)	Earnest Money	Time Allowed for completion	Class of Contractor	Head of Account
1.	Const. of R/ wall on Jail road to Kathayala Mohalla road Udhampur.	18.83	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	03 Months	"B/C"	UT Sector
2.	Const. of drain from house of Kamal Singh to house of Kaka Ram at W. No. 21 Udhampur	1.62	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	30 Days	"D"	Grant in Aid

Position of AAA:- Accorded
Position of T.S:- Accorded
Position of Funds:- Available

The bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q.), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule:-

S. No.	Event	Date
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	25-07-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 25-07-2023 to 01-08-2023, 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting.	-
4	Bid submission Start Date	26-07-2023 from 900 Hrs
5	Bid Submission End Date	01-08-2023 up to 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	02-08-2023 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur.
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur uploading a copy of treasury challan and EMD/Bid Security in the shape of CDR/FDR (The date of Treasury Challan/ Bid Security/Affidavits between date of start of bid submission and bid submission end date) duly pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur as mentioned in the bid documents. The earnest money of the successful bidder shall be released only after submission of Treasury Challan.
- The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder need not make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential- submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur. The date for same shall be intimated separately.

No.- 11958-64
Dated:- 25.07.2023

DIP/J-5853/23

SD/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PWD (R&B) DIVISION
UDHAMPUR

CS, DG NIFT address new batch of students at Budgam Campus

J I NEWS SERVICE

BUDGAM, JULY 27: The Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary (CS) Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Thursday visited the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) at its Ompora campus in Budgam.

During his visit, the Chief Secretary addressed the new batch of students who got their admissions at the institute during the current academic session-2023.

The Chief Secretary, while addressing the students, said that the Valley has a beautiful climate with four different colourful seasons and asked the students to cherish all of it during their tenure at NIFT Srinagar.

He further advised the students to use their potential to the best of their capacity and create a niche in Fashion and Designing besides Art and Craft.

"But my advice to the young minds here will be that you can become the best designer only when you become good human beings. You have to be a good human being first then only you can become a good designer," he said and advised the students to serve the society as best as they can.

He said Jammu and Kashmir UT has been at the top position in organizing events under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to celebrate 75 years of Independence while



the government has made a remarkable achievement in e-governance as well. "I am hopeful that no effort shall be spared to make this NIFT campus one of the top most institutes of fashion and designing in line with this emerging spirit," he said. During his visit, Dr Mehta toured the NIFT campus to review the status of the completion of the works. He also inaugurated an exhibition- Arts and Design work done by NIFT students

where different designing elements fashion and crafts were showcased by the NIFT students. The J&K Chief Secretary along with DG NIFT Rohit Kansal interacted with the faculty and the students during their visit to the exhibition.

Earlier, in his address to students, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India Rohit Kansal who is also the Director General NIFT, said NIFT Srinagar is one of the youngest entrant in

the NIFT family and is close to our heart.

"Being the family's youngest child, this child (campus) is close to our heart. Not only the J&K Government but also at NIFT head office," he said.

Rohit Kansal however said that being the youngest campus and newest entrant in the NIFT family means that it has all the advantages and opportunities to innovate and learn whatever the senior campuses have done.

"This is the most picturesque campus among all the 18 campuses of the Country. Just for comparison, our all campuses are spread over two acres of land while this campus is almost 20 acres in size," he said.

He requested the J&K Industries and Commerce department to involve the NIFT campus in their activities for product development and craft cluster activities.

"We have the talented faculty and students here and I am sure that we will take the craft cluster system of Jammu and Kashmir to new heights," he said and extended his best wishes to the new batch of students who have got their admission to the NIFT Srinagar campus this year.

Earlier, speaking at the occasion, Director NIFT Srinagar Dr Javid Ahmad Wani said that the campus was very special to the J&K government and the Government of India. This campus is of great importance.

Independence Day Celebration DIPR Cultural Unit presents cultural program at GMC Rehari

J I NEWS SERVICE



JAMMU, JULY 27: A cultural program was organised by the Cultural Unit of Information Department Jammu on the theme Independence Day Celebration here at Government Middle School Rehari.

Artists of Cultural Wing Jammu participated in the event and presented Folk songs and patriotic songs. Students of the school also presented a colourful Cultural program.

Speaking on the occasion, School Headmistress, Poonam Kumari shared her views on the topic and appreciated the Cultural Unit of Department of Information and Public Relations for organizing such a meaningful program to aware the future of the nation.

Among others, staff members of the school, officials of the Information Department and a large number of audience witnessed the program.

The whole program was conducted under the supervision of Cultural Officer, Mukesh Kumar Sharma.

Cleanliness, plantation drive held by 84 Bn CRPF at Chanderkote

J I NEWS SERVICE



RAMBAN, JULY 27: On the occasion of 85th CRPF Raising Day, the 84 Bn CRPF conducted a mass cleanliness drive in the Shri Amaranth Ji Yatra langar site Chanderkote.

The campaign was led by Commandant 84 Bn, N Ranbir Singh, Second in Command, Vikram Singh, Dy. Commandant 84 Bn, T.P Singh and more than 100 subordinate officers besides other ranks participated in the sanitation drive.

The Officers cleaned the Langar and surrounding areas besides cutting grass, collecting garbage and polythene bags. They also planted some saplings at the appropriate locations, adjoining the Langar site.

84 Bn CRPF is deployed in J&K since 2009, with its Bn Hq established at Chatha Jammu and its Coys are deployed in Ramban & Udhampur Districts and performing operationally very sensitive ROP duty on NH 44. The Bn is ensuring smooth passage of Yatri, SF convoys and other vehicles in Udhampur and Ramban Districts of J&K.

While interacting with the Media, Commandant stated that CRPF was initially raised as Crown Representative Police on 27 July 1939. After Independence, it was rechristened as Central Reserve Police Force, during December 1949. Since its Raising, CRPF is deployed across the length and breadth of the country, in all conflict theatres, viz, North East, J&K, Punjab, LWE states. The Force has rapidly grown and currently, there are nearly 250 Battalions, engaged in Counter Terrorism, Counter Insurgency, Anti Naxal Operations, VVIP security, L&O, Anti-Riot, Election Duties, etc where the Nation called for its services, he added. On its Raising Day, to send out the message that we are not only performing operational duties, but also, committed to the cause of Cleaner and Greener Planet, the drive was conducted.

The Langer owners and locals expressed their gratitude, happiness with this noble initiative of 84 Bn CRPF.

Mayor of Srinagar participates in 8th Muharram Alam-e-Sharief Procession at Guru Bazar, Srinagar

J I NEWS SERVICE

J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JULY 27: The Mayor of Srinagar, Junaid Azim Mattu today joined the 8th Muharram Alam-e-Sharief procession in Guru Bazar, Srinagar. This significant religious event commemorates the supreme sacrifices made by the martyrs of Karbala.

The Mayor joined thousands of devout participants who gathered to express their heartfelt tributes and remembrance for the martyrs of Karbala.

During the procession, Mattu walked side by side with the participants, upholding the spirit of unity, compassion, and respect for the rich cultural and religious heritage of



Srinagar. His presence symbolized the city administrator's commitment to fostering communal harmony and honoring the traditions that bind the community together. Mattu said Imam Hussain (AS), the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), left us with a powerful message that resonates through the ages. His message was one of unwavering courage, steadfastness, and the pursuit of justice and righteousness. He stood against the oppressive and tyrannical forces of his time, sacrificing his life and the lives of his loved ones to uphold the principles of truth and dignity.

Imam Hussain's message teaches us the importance of standing up against injustice, even in the face of overwhelming odds. It reminds us to prioritize our moral obligations and to remain steadfast in our pursuit of justice, compassion, and equality, regardless of the challenges we may face, Mattu said adding that his message serves as a timeless reminder of the power of faith, sacrifice, and the indomitable spirit that can inspire generations to come.

Furthermore, Mattu expressed his sincere gratitude to the organizers, volunteers, administration and security personnel for ensuring the smooth conduct of the procession, safeguarding the participants' well-being, and maintaining public order.

Kathua admin discusses District Export Action Plan to boost local economy

J I NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, JULY 27: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rakesh Minhas today chaired a meeting of District Level Export Promotion Committee to discuss the Draft Export Action Plan for Kathua district prepared by Jammu and Kashmir trade promotion Organization (JKITPO) here at the conference hall of DC Office complex.

At the outset, the GM DIC Kathua Prem Singh Chibh briefed the meeting about the headway achieved so far in making a draft district export plan which is focusing on giving necessary

handholding to promote high value potential products of Kathua district.

The consultant from JKITPO presented a PowerPoint presentation on the draft district Export action plan besides adopting a robust strategy and other support measures required to increase exports of products identified under One District One Product (ODOP), i.e. Basohli paintings and Basohli pashmina.

The Deputy Commissioner Kathua directed stakeholder departments to take prerequisite steps to support the action plan furthering the objective of making Kathua an export hub of its

unique products.

He said the plan must include strategies to increase production, quality of products, more FPO formation, cluster zones for export to be identified, departmental schemes be implemented and market linkages, good packaging techniques etc to increase export from the district.

The DC enjoined upon all committee members to go through the draft export action plan prepared by JKITPO and make some valuable suggestions to be included in the draft action plan before it is submitted to the Committee.

Repair work to affect supply to Jammu city areas fed by Sitlee Water Plant

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JULY 27: In view of Maintenance works at Sitlee Water Treatment Plant, the water supply to some parts of Jammu would be affected on July 29 and July 30, 2023.

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mechanical Division North Jammu has informed the public that the water supply to Lohar and Manda Reservoirs shall remain partially affected on July 29, 2023 and July 30, 2023, due to some urgent electrical maintenance works by JPDCL at Intakes, Sitlee.

The areas affected will include Panthri and adjoining areas, Rehari and adjoining areas, Janipur, Lakkar Mandi, Plaura, Buta Nagar and adjoining areas. Public is advised to use water judiciously during the above said period.

DC Ramban conducts surprise inspection of government offices

J I NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, JULY 27: Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Mussarat Islam today conducted inspection of different Government departments to check the attendance and cleanliness and sanitation in and around the offices.

He checked the biometric attendance of staff and directed the District and Sectoral officers to maintain office decorum and punctuality to provide quality and timely services to the people.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the officers to monitor the sanitation condition of their official buildings and ensure proper cleanliness of their offices. The DC also assigned responsibility to officers for ensuring sanitation of their respective floors of Tawi Block.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Harban Lal Sharma, Executive Engineer, PWD, Abbashek Gupta, CMO, Dr. Kamal Zadu, STO, ARTIO, and various Senior Officers.

Holder mega medical camp at Phagsoo-Thathri DHS Doda launches "Doctor Aapke Gaon Mein" initiative

J I NEWS SERVICE

DODA, JULY 27: With the aim to extend quality medical care services to the people of the District at their door steps, the District Health Society Doda has launched a pioneering initiative - "Doctor Aapke Gaon Mein."

In this connection, a mega medical camp was held at Village Phagsoo in Medical Block Thathri under the supervision of Chief Medical Officer Doda, Dr. Ab Hamid Zargar and guidance of Block Medical Officer Thathri Dr Shafiq Javed Zargar.

The people were examined and screened by a team of specialist doctors of Ophthalmology, Orthopedics, ENT, Medicine, Gynecology, General Surgery. In addition to this, a range of other services were provided to the people under RBK, MMU and RKSK.

More than 300 patients swarmed the camp to avail the consultation medical by specialists. They were examined and provided free medicines. Besides ANC check up and ultrasound services were also provided to the pregnant women in the camp.

Dr Fayaz ul Haq Zargar, Dr Ab Gafoor Ahmed, Dr Bishen Singh, Dr Ifra, Dr Mudassar Sufi, Dr Priya Marhas, Dr Munezza Iqbal, Dr Shazia Shakeel and staff of MMU Doda, RBK & RKSK teams of Thathri rendered their services to make the camp successful.

Among others the camp was attended by Dr Shakeel Ahmed Kichloo, Jonson Chandail, Health Staff and local PRIs of the area.

The locals of the area thanked the health department particularly Health Secretary, Bhupinder Kumar, Director Health Services Jammu Dr Rajeev Kumar Sharma, Deputy Commissioner Doda, Vishesh Paul Mahajan and CMO Doda, Dr Ab Hamid Zargar for organizing such a mega camp for the betterment of common people.

DC Pulwama reviews preparations for events to be held under 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign

J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JULY 27: A meeting to review the preparations regarding different programmes to be held under the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh', campaign was held today under the chairpersonship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr Basharat Gayoom at Circuit House, Pulwama.

At the outset, DC highlighted the importance of 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign and said that it aims to foster a sense of unity and pride across all sections of society, celebrating India's rich heritage and patriotic spirit, and one of the hallmarks of the concluding event on the Independence Day will be paying tribute to the 'Veers' (martyrs) through ceremonies at all



levels across the district. He said at the Panchayat level under 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' program, memorial plaques would be placed at Amrit Sarovars and panchayat Ghars in the memory of the national heroes of the country. Assistant Commissioner Development Pulwama, Dr Farhat briefed the meeting about

different themes under the "Meri Maati Mera Desh" campaign, and gave a detailed outline of the events to be held in connection with it to all officers present. During the meeting, it was decided that five programmes will be held at each Panchayat and Block between 9th August to 15th August under the theme "Meri

Maati Mera Desh". Further it was elaborated upon the preparations to be carried out by various stake holders under the campaign. Around 130 Amrit Sarovars have been developed in various panchayats across the district where Memorial Plaques will be installed. For remaining Panchayats, the DC directed Block Development Officers to identify suitable buildings for erecting Memorials.

Dr Basharat asked both the SSPs to prepare panchayat wise the list of Veers, freedom fighters and defence personnel who have sacrificed their lives for the cause of nation and freedom.

It was further informed that Maati-Yatras from Panchayats will be taken to blocks where from it would be collected in an

earthen urns for forward journey to New Delhi by a youth from each block for construction of the National Memorial at Kartavya Path.

The Assistant Commissioner Development was directed to make all necessary arrangements for Mitti-Yatra in all blocks. Programme, Manager NRLM was directed to provide sufficient number of Earthen Pots and Mitti Diyas through SHGs. It was also informed that at least 75 Plant saplings will be planted in each Panchayat and ward of the district, for which DC asked the DFO Social Forestry Pulwama to provide these saplings to Block Development Officers as required and directed that plantation shall be carried out at protected locations jointly identified by BDO and CEO.