



JINDRAH IMAGES



DAILY | JAMMU | VOL NO: 10 | ISSUE NO: 129 | PAGES: 12 | PRICE: Rs 2/- | RNI NO: JKENG/2013/49471 | POSTAL REGD. NO. JK-497/22-24 | dailyjindrahimages.com/Epaper.php | jindrahimages123@gmail.com

India moving ahead with clear roadmap on environment, climate change: PM Modi



"The theme of this year's World Environment Day is to get rid of single-use plastic, an issue about which the world is talking today but India has been working on it consistently for the last four-five years.

"In 2018 itself, India started working at two levels for getting rid of single-use plastic. On one hand, we banned single-use plastic and on the other hand we made the plastic waste processing mandatory," he said.

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 5

India is moving ahead with a clear roadmap for environment protection and climate change, while maintaining a balance between present requirements and future vision, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday.

Speaking on the occasion of the World Environment Day, he said if India has expanded its 4G and 5G telecom networks, it has also enhanced its forest cover on an equal footing.

He said India is focusing on environment in a big way just like any other area for its growth.

"On the one hand, we have provided help to the poor and on the other hand we have also taken major steps keeping in mind the fuel requirements of the future," he said.

In the past nine years, India has focussed a lot on 'green and clean energy', Modi said.

Lt Governor chairs 5th UT level meeting of NCORD



JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 5

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha chaired the 5th UT level meeting of Narco Coordination Center (NCORD).

The meeting was attended by the Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehra, Director General of Police, Sh Dilbag Singh, senior officers of Police, J&K administration and concerned UT and central agencies.

The Lt Governor took appraisal of the action taken on the directions passed during 4th NCORD meeting and discussed the comprehensive strategy both for the UT and

District Level initiatives to counter the menace of drug abuse.

The Lt Governor also discussed action plan prepared by the task force, headed by Special DG (Crime) Sh A.K. Choudhary.

The Lt Governor called for enhanced coordination between all the security and drug law enforcement agencies.

"The action plan of the task force highlights the UT administration's zero-tolerance policy towards narcotics," he said.

The Lt Governor called for stringent action against the drug traffickers, increased IEC activities, involvement of communities

and capacity building of police officers and drug enforcement agencies.

Higher Education and School Education department officers were directed to intensify awareness campaigns and make Nasha Mukta Panchayat Abhiyan a mass movement.

Instructions were issued to District officers to ensure effective use of the Nidaan portal and to follow the directions of the NCORD meeting in letter and spirit.

During the meeting Special DG (Crime) Sh. A.K.Choudhary briefed the chair on the agenda points and the measures put in place to

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Lt Governor addresses World Environment Day event at Srinagar



JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 5

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha addressed the World Environment Day event, organized by the Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, today at Srinagar.

The Lt Governor reiterated the commitment of the UT Administration to protect the environment and natural resources and sustainable, inclusive development.

"Humanity is facing grave challenges of plastic pollution today. Our resolution on this year's environment day is to 'Beat Plastic Pollution'.

It is now the responsibility of the entire society to accomplish this resolution through the spirit of Jan Bhagidari," said the Lt Governor.

"We cannot exist without nature. This day reminds

us to accelerate our actions and bring behavioural changes in our lifestyles. It should be the priority of all stakeholders to free our forests, rivers and lakes, mountains, grasslands, farms and urban landscapes from plastic pollution.

This decade is going to matter the most in preventing catastrophic climate change and mitigating biodiversity loss. By 2040, we will be able to reduce plastic pollution by 20% only by adopting

the strategy of circularity economy, said the Lt Governor.

"We need to follow integrated approach, circularity economy, Reuse, Recycle, Reorient and Diversify to reduce plastic pollution. It is high time we should incentivize and promote sustainable alternative materials for redesign and repackaging of products to protect environment," he observed.

He further suggested for creating a

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Jammu AIIMS to have CoE in Trauma Sciences, Institute of Traumatology

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 5

Stating that the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is a multi-hazard prone region with natural disasters, Executive Director and CEO AIIMS Jammu, Dr Shakti Gupta on Monday said that the institution has proposed the Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Trauma Sciences and an Institute of Traumatology in AIIMS Vijaypur (Samba District)-



popularly called as Jammu AIIMS.

"The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is a multi-hazard prone region with natural disasters like earthquake, floods, landslides, avalanches,

high-velocity winds and snowstorms, besides man-made disasters including road accidents, fires, and terrorist attacks," Dr Shakti Gupta told UNI.

He said that the Jammu AIIMS is in the process of establishing trauma services and a Center of Excellence has already been approved as a component of the hospital.

"The high incidence of trauma-related casualties including those

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 5

Days after claimed to be an "illegal" commercial complex was partially damaged during a demolition drive carried out by the Kathua Municipal Council, the Director

Urban Local Bodies, Jammu on Monday in an order said that in view of reports published/circulated in social media regarding demolition of a building at Ward No.6 of Kathua and law and order

issue created afterward, a committee is constituted to conduct a fact finding enquiry into the matter to ascertain the veracity of facts regarding the procedure followed in related case by MC, Kathua.

The committee will be headed by Senior Law officer, Waseem Shoket Butt while Amit Sharma, EO MC Kathua are its members.

The committee shall submit a report to

Govt orders transfer, posting of 3 JKAS officers

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 5

The Jammu and Kashmir Government Monday ordered the transfers and postings of three JKAS and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) officers with immediate effect.

As per an order issued by General Administration (GAD), Suneel Ahmad Lone, JKAS, Sub-Registrar, Poonch, is transferred and posted as Sub-Divisional

Magistrate, Kokernag, against an available vacancy. He shall also hold the charge of the post of Sub-Registrar, Kokernag, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Ghanshyam Basotra, JKAS, Assistant Labour Commissioner, Kathua, is transferred and posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Ramsoo, against an available vacancy. He shall also hold the charge of the post of Sub-Registrar,

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Highest ever investments worth Rs 2200 Cr made in J&K under NIP in 2022-23; Work commenced on another Rs 5500 Cr: Officers to CS

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 5

Dispelling all the previous notions, Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta remarked that J&K is fast turning into an investment hub as people are keen to establish their business units here in the UT.

Dr Mehta made these remarks while talking in a

meeting called to deliberate upon the deliverables set for the I&C Department for the year 2023-24.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary Industries & Commerce; Director General, Industries, Jammu; Director, Industries, Kashmir besides other officers of the concerned Department.

Dr Mehta urged upon the officers of the Department to act as facilitators to all the applicants who want to establish their business units here in J&K. He asked them to be a sole contact point for these entrepreneurs so that they are able to swiftly establish their units under Single Window System (SWS) created for their ease.

It was given out in the meeting that under New Industrial Policy (NIP), 2021, a total of 5327 applications/investment proposals have been received so far with an anticipated investment of about Rs 66,000 Cr to be made here in the UT.

The meeting was further apprised that

12 injured as tempo rams into wall in Rajouri



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 5

Twelve people were injured after a tempo

J&K Police to "approach" Interpol to nab 36 terrorists of Kishtwar origin operating from PoK, Pak

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 5

Determined to dismantle the ecosystem of terror, the Jammu and Kashmir Police may soon "approach" the Interpol (International Criminal Police Organization) to apprehend 36 hardcore terrorists hailing from Kishtwar district representing different terrorist outfits and are presently operating from the Pakistan or the Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir (PoK).

Police sources said that 36 hardcore terrorists of different outfits from Kishtwar district, are already identified, who exfiltrated to the Pakistan or the Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir in mid 90s.

"A list of all identified terrorists is ready while non-bailable warrants are also obtained against them," sources said, stating that efforts are on to get them arrested with the help of Interpol.

"The terrorists, who have fled away to Pakistan or to PoK, are provoking and radicalising the youth in the Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban region to engage them into terrorist activities," sources added.

"The Security Forces along with Police are on high alert after getting information about the activities being carried out by Mohammad Amin Bhatt alias Khubaib of Doda, a territory in Pakistan," sources stated.

They said that Bhatt, a core member of Lashkar-e-Taiba, in 1997 went to Pakistan and carrying out activities in these hilly terrains and misleading youth, adding, "When Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban was declared terrorism-free, Bhatt was tasked by the Pakistan to revive terrorist related activities in areas like Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban, Udhampur etc and he started instigating the youth using his network."

It is learnt that many terrorists of Lashkar-e-Taiba and Hizbul Mujahideen had fled to Pakistan when the terrorism was on high in Jammu and Kashmir in 90s.

"Along with Khubaib, 36 such terrorists, (all from Kishtwar) district, are identified who are running the network from Pakistan. They are not only sowing the seeds of radicalisation

Record 38.47 Lakh pilgrims visited Mata Vaishno Devi in first 5 months of this year

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 5

Setting a new record this year in the first five months, more than 38 lakhs pilgrims have visited the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Cave Shrine nestled in Trikuta Hills of Katra town in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Official sources on Monday told UNI that in view of summer vacations, presently there is a huge rush in the Katra town and pilgrims are leaving for the Bhawan to pay obeisance at the cave shrine.

"This year so far in the first five months, 38.47 lakh (38,47,584) pilgrims



have visited the cave shrine," said an official.

He stated that the figure is higher if compared this period of 2022, in which 34,67,222 pilgrims visited the cave shrine.

Sharing the details, the official said that in January 5,24,189 pilgrims, in February 4,14,432, in March, 8,94,650, in April

10,18,540 and in May 9,95,773 pilgrims visited the Bhawan to offer prayers.

Amidst the chants of 'Jai Mata Di', around 35,000 to 40,000 pilgrims are every day arriving at Katra.

Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board,

Efforts on to bring Jammu's Basohli on global tourist map: Official

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 5

Jammu and Kashmir government is make all endeavours to bring Basohli to the global tourist map with modern-day state-of-the-art facilities and infrastructure, an official said on Monday.

Administrative Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department, Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah said his department is committed to promoting Basohli as a major tourist destination.

"All critical gaps that need to be worked upon, that will be the Tourism Department,

especially under the aegis of 'Swadesh Darshan' and other similar schemes of the Union Tourism Ministry," Dr Shah said at a function organised to bring Basohli to the global tourist map with modern-day state-of-the-art facilities and infrastructure, an official said on Monday.

The event witnessed a series of cultural festivities and other events.

"The Department of Tourism is committed in its endeavour to promote Offbeat Tourist Destinations and adventure tour-

ism. Basohli, being an Off-beat Tourist Destination and major water sports destination for the Jammu region, is being promoted for adventure tourism along with leisure and heritage tourism by the Tourism Department," he said.

Meanwhile the day-long celebrations kick-started with an 'Eco-Tourism Awareness Rally' by the local school children under the theme of 'Beat Plastic Pollution' which is the official campaign theme of 'World Environment Day 2023' and is being globally celebrated with the hashtag

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

India witnessed massive infrastructural development during 9 yrs of BJP Rule: Kavinder Gupta

Target to win 35 Parliamentary seats in upcoming Lok Sabha polls from West Bengal



Ji News Service

BONGAON, JUN 5: Kavinder Gupta, senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Jammu and Kashmir has asserted that India has achieved unprecedented heights in terms of infrastructure development through its 'Vikas Tirath' (Developmental Journey) at the national and international level during the short span of nine years of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi led Govt at the Centre. He said that the Vikas Tirath-Land port coming up at a cost of Rs. 2500 crore at Indo-Bangladesh Border proves the commitment of the BJP Govt to development leading to huge economic thrust.

He stated this during his visit to Vikas Tirath Darshan at Petrapole Indo-Bangla Border, Bongaon in West Bengal.

Kavinder said India has achieved unprecedented heights at the national and international level with priority focus on development and economy. He said that the upcoming land port in this region along the Indo-Bangla border bears testimony to the Govt's commitment to equitable development in all the regions. He said that this land port project is going to give a massive boost to the economy of this region in particular and ultimately the nation at large.

The senior BJP leader said that once this biggest land port of India gets established it will facilitate the export and import of multiple commodities including iron and cotton besides other commodities in demand on both sides of the border. He said that as on today almost 8000 traders and 800 trucks are moving on daily basis along this border region and these numbers will get

further multiplied once the port starts working.

Earlier, the officials at the Indo-Bangla Border gave a marvelous presentation about the functioning of Border, which undoubtedly was the main attraction of the day-long hectic schedule.

Later, the senior BJP leader addressed a press conference at District Party Office. He said that the Modi Govt is all set for a big victory in the 2024 Parliamentary polls as the Party has set a target to win at least 35 seats from West Bengal against the existing 18 held by it. He said that presently West Bengal has a total 42 Lok Sabha seats out of which 18 are in the BJP kitty and asserted that the next target of BJP in the upcoming 2024 elections is that of 35 seats which will be achieved by dint of hard work by the party's foot soldiers on the ground besides the unprecedented achievements playing a

vital role in achieving the set target.

Later, Kavinder Gupta, while addressing bloggers and influencers meet, highlighted the achievements during the 9 years tenure of PM Narendra Modi.

Kavinder said that social media influencers deserve kudos for the good work they have accomplished in the last nine years convincing people to support the BJP. He said that the role of influencers in propagating scenario is quite significant and therefore all of them must focus on the key achievements of Modi Government because social media is in vogue these days and can transform people's minds and help in course correction as far as canvassing for polls and other programs is concerned.

It is pertinent to mention here that the senior BJP leader Kavinder Gupta visited the Bongaon Organizational District as part of BJP's Maha Jana Samparak Abhiyan Pravas as Central leader.

On the very first day, Kavinder Gupta along with senior BJP leaders visited to the temple in Sat Bhai Kalitala. Later he interacted with media persons at the District Party Office followed by the Social Media Influencer Meet in the PWD Inspection Bungalow, Bongaon. Then he visited Vikas Tirath Darshan at Petrapole Indo-Bangla Border. Later in the evening, he also met Beneficiaries of Central Govt schemes.

Ranvijay, Martand pay obeisance at ancient Sudhmahadev, Mantalai Temples

Ask Pujaris, staff to work with more zeal, provide adequate facilities to visiting pilgrims

Ji News Service

UDHAMPUR, Jun 5: Ranvijay Singh and Martand Singh, Trustees of J&K Dharmarth Trust today paid obeisance at the ancient Sudhmahadev and Mantalai Temples during the ongoing three-day Mela. They performed Special Pooja and prayed for peace and prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory.

The Trustees also interacted with Pujaris and staff and enquired about the facilities being provided by the Trust. They laid stress upon the Pujaris to ensure that every devotee who enters this temple returns with complete knowledge of the history, significance and other details about this temple as it is vital for disseminating information among the masses about the rich cultural heritage of J&K.

Ranvijay Singh and Martand Singh



asked Pujaris and staff of the Trust to work with more zeal and dedication and make all possible efforts in providing adequate facilities to the visiting pilgrims.

Later, both the Trustees also inter-

acted with visiting devotees and listened to their views with regard to improve the facilities to make both the ancient temples more comfortable and splendid for the visiting devotees.

BJP to hold massive rally at Poonch on June 9 under Maha Jan Sampark Abhiyan

Yudhvir asks party cadre to gear up for upcoming rally



Ji News Service

JAMMU, JUN 5: Yudhvir Sethi, J&K BJP Vice President, has called on party cadre to gear up for an upcoming rally on June 10 in Poonch district as part of the Maha Jan Sampark Abhiyan. The rally is being organised in connection with successful completion of 9 years of the Modi Government at the Centre, Sethi said, urging party workers to make the upcoming rally a big success.

During his visit to Poonch, Yudhvir Sethi, who is also the Pradesh Seh Prabhari Maha Jan Sampark Abhiyan and In-charge Rally; Rajeev Sharma, Convener Rajouri Anantag Parliamentary Constituency and former MLA, Pardeep Sharma ex MLC, Narinder Singh, Rafiq

Hussain, Gurdeep Singh, Sunil Gupta, DDC Member Sohail Malik, Vipan Gandhari, Shazad Khan, Azhar Manhas, Akyas Khan, Mandal Presidents, Morcha Presidents, senior leader and party workers reviewed the preparations for the upcoming rally and expressed his optimism about the future of the Union Territory under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said that the upcoming rally is part of the Maha Jan Sampark Abhiyan launched by the BJP to reach out to people across the country and inform them about the achievements of the Modi Government over the last 9 years.

He also highlighted the various development initiatives taken by the Modi Government, including Jan Dhan Yojana, Swachh

Bharat Abhiyan, Ayushman Bharat scheme, Digital India campaign and many more.

Sethi appealed to the people of Poonch District to come out in large numbers and participate in the rally to show their support for the BJP and the Modi Government. He emphasized that the rally would showcase the achievements of the government and its commitment to the development and progress of the country.

Today's meeting was held under the chairmanship of Rajesh Raina, District President Poonch.

Rajeev Sharma, Convener Rajouri Anantag Parliamentary Constituency and former MLA, in his address, said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has ushered a golden period for the country and is keeping it for Jammu and Kashmir. "His focus on development and progress has brought in significant changes in the region, which is now witnessing unprecedented growth and improvement. His commitment to peace and stability in the region has resulted in increased investments and opportunities for the people of J&K," he added.

He laid special stress on ensuring synergy between different segments of party workers calling it the most significant part of making BJP strong at the grassroots level.

Sanjeevani Jan Kalayan Celebrates World Environment Day



Ji News Service

PANCHARI, JUN 5: Sanjeevani Jan Kalayan Celebrated World Environment Day at Govt. High School Kothilair & Govt. Middle

School Mir, Sarti of Block Panchari today here on Monday. The school Headmasters, teachers, PRI's members and students were present on the event. Khajur Singh, Founder Sanjeevani

Jan Kalayan made the students aware of the need to take immediate action to save the environment and Mother Earth.

Kuldeep Kumar Sarpanch Panchari addressed the students with an enlightened speech and requested all to spread the awareness of saving the environment. He asked each one to do their bit by stopping the use of plastic bags, stop wasting food, start using public transportation to save fuel and start recycling for a green tomorrow. Children should lead the eco-revolution and become change-makers, he said.

Students & Teachers of Both Schools took an oath to take an initiative to save the environment and doing their bit for a cleaner and greener Earth. The celebrations ended with planting Evergreen Plants & educating students on how to plant and adopt a tree and motivated them to plant more and more trees.

NSS unit of DDC organised plantation drive to mark world Environment Day

Ji News Service

JAMMU, JUN 5: Tree plantation drive by NSS Unit of Dogra Degree College in collaboration with Eco Warriors Club, DDC on World Environment Day. NSS volunteers of Dogra Degree College tried to make a difference on this World Environment Day by organizing a tree plantation program at Panchayat Ghar, Upper Kartholi (adopted village).

They made their small yet significant contribution towards Mother Nature by each one planting a sapling as a token of love and gratitude towards their mother nature. The day started with formal welcome address. The gathering was addressed by Ms Priyanka Sharma, NSS PO. She said that we are seeking to expand the work of planta-



tion and other social service activities, it's just a beginning. Through his speech she congratulated all the volunteers who gathered for this noble cause and motivated each other to keep up the good work throughout their life. Ms Palak Gupta, Convener, Eco Warrior Club, DDC also addressed the gather-

ing highlighting the importance of not only planting but also taking care of the saplings they are planting. The passionate volunteers started planting the sapling that they were gifted and later everyone together took an oath to nurture and protect the saplings they are planting. Each of them named their plants and

also took selfies with their saplings which they planted with full love and hope. Tarseen Singh, Sarpanch, Upper Kartholi along with Dr. Ruchika, Incharge, Health and Wellness Center through their work have become a source of inspiration for everyone.

NSS Unit of Dogra Degree College wishes a greener and safer environment for future.

The primary motive was to create awareness and promote sustainable and safer environment by inculcating love for nature and to encourage the youth to stop blaming others for all the problems but rather to take initiative and to come together asking concerned citizen and as one team, and actively work towards a greener and cleaner village. The day was observed with great enthusiasm.

Sood conducts meeting of party workers, meets industrialists & visits indoor stadium

Ji News Service

JAMMU, JUN 5: Ashish Sood, J&K BJP Seh-Prabhari along with former Minister Chander Prakash Ganga, Additional Protocol Incharge Bawa Sharma, undertook various programmes in line with the nationwide Maha Jana Sampark Abhiyan of the party.

Sood has meeting with senior workers of the party at Nudd in samba district. He also visited Indoor Stadium Samba under Vika Tirath Yatra programme. He also held meeting with prominent Industrialists at SIDCO, Bari Brahmna.

Ashish Sood, during his interaction with the senior workers said that BJP has the pride of claiming that it is the world's largest political party and the credit for its rise goes to the party workers who have devoted their time towards strengthening it. HE appreciated the



efforts of every worker who is devoting time for the cause of the party.

District President Kashmir Singh, Prabhari Narayan Singh, Seh Prabhari Munish Sharma, Ex Dist President Amar Singh, OBC Morcha National Secretary Rishpaal Verma, Mandal President Karan Singh, Mahila Morcha leader Sonia Thakur, Samba Mandal President Ankush Mahajan, Samba constituency convener, Sanjeev DDC Kartar Chander, DDC

Ramesh Chander, Chairman Municipal Committee Samba Pawan Kohli and Mahila Morcha President Chanchala, were present in the senior party workers' meeting.

Ashish Sood, while visiting Indoor stadium, Samba took stock of the facilities being provided to the sports persons and also interacted with the officials present on the occasion. In another programme of meeting with prominent Industrialists namely President Bari Brahmna

Lalit Mahajan, Deepak Dhaman, and Gangyal Reen, Sood informed that the Modi government has, during the last 9 years taken a number of reformatory decisions for the growth of the industry, which is also a source of employment for the young people. He assured the industrialists that the Union government will continue to work for the development of industry by providing various incentives and schemes.

Mayor flags off Annual Sudhmahadev Chhari Yatra from ancient Panjbakhtar temple



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 5: Annual Sudhmahadev Chhari Yatra commenced from ancient Panjbakhtar temple Jammu to ancient Shiv Temple of Shri Shul Paneshwar Ji Maharaj, Sudhmahadev Diest Udhampur Sudhmahadev Chhari Yatra Samiti organizes every year during Jyestha Purnima. Hundreds of devotees of Lord Shiva thronged at Panjbakhtar temple early morning chanting Har Har Bhole. Mayor Jammu Municipal corporation Sh

Rajinder kumar Sharma along with Col. M.L Thapa, Smt Ritu Choudhary (Corporator) along with Former President Bar Association flagged off Chhari Yatra. 1008 Shri Damodar Dass Ji Maharaj highly spiritual elevated saint from Vrindaban took the Chhari to Sudhmahadev. Talking to media, Maharaj said that this place has its reference in various religions books such Shiv Puran also. Lord Shiva solemnize his marriage with Ma Gaura and have "FERE" at Mantala. Special Pooja was performed at holy temple of Bhagwan shul paneshwar Ji Maharaj amidst chanting of vedic mantras to invoke the blessings of Lord Shiva. Yatra encouraged devotees enroute to take part in this holy event. Chhari enroute Sudhmahadev welcomed by Shiv devotees in Kolkandoli ancient Shiv Temple Nagrota where hundreds of Shiv Devotees gathered to have darshan of Holy mace. In Chenani town local Shiv Samiti welcomed the Chhari Yatra with garlands in their hands and

showing flower patties from their rooftops. At Bus Stand Chenani, the artists came from Uttarkhand performed Shiv Tandav and Shiv Marriage. Large number of locals especially women-folk witnessed their perfl performance. Chhari Was Garlanded in Bashat Village by locals including Muslim brethren also. At Sudhmahadev Town SSP Udhampur Dr Vinod Kumar, Tehsildar (Mela Officer) Sh Ved Prakash, Naib Tehsildar Sudershan Kumar with Sarpanches and Prominent Citizens garlanded the Chhari Yatra-Samiti Members Narinder Sharma, Yarus Magotra Ram Magotra, Rajesh Behal. Raj Kumar Sodhi flanked by Chhari of Bagwan Shul Paneshwar Ji Maharaj thanked thousands of Shiv Bhakts who welcomed the Chhari Mubarak enroute serving langur of delicious food in Durgesh Nandni langur. Administration made all requisite arrangements for facilitating safe and hassle free yatra.

NC will provide corruption-free services to people, if voted to power in ULB polls: Rattan Lal

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 5: Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, has promised that the National Conference will focus on delivering corruption-free services to the people if they win the upcoming Urban Local Bodies (ULB) elections in Jammu region. The senior NC leader was speaking while addressing a meeting of 26 Wards of Bahu and Jammu South Constituencies of Jammu city at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan Jammu. The meeting was chaired by Chandar Mohan Sharma, District President Jammu Urban and Naresh Bittu, District President Jammu Rural in which Rattan Lal Gupta, was the Chief Guest.

The Provincial President said that the National Conference, if given the opportunity to serve, would make sure to provide the best possible civic services to the people of Jammu with a focus on waste management. The party also aims to promote the Municipal Corporation to the world level. Furthermore, all services provided by the National Conference will be tax-free and Property tax imposed will be rolled back. The party, Gupta said, believes that this will encourage more people to engage with their local government and create a stronger community and better sense of civic pride.

Gupta ended his statement by acknowledging that it is not just the National Conference that is responsible for creating a better future for Jammu, but the collective effort of all its citizens. He encourages people to vote and take an active role in the development of their communities. "The National Conference's goal is to make Jammu a true model for the rest of the country to follow. The party believes that with their vision, strong leadership, and commitment to the principles of democracy, it can create a brighter future for the people of Jammu," he added. Babu Rampal former minister and Central Zone President said that the National Conference is known for its long-standing commitment to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The party has a strong



believes that they are the ones who can deliver the best services and true transparency to the people. He stated that NC is committed to fulfilling the responsibilities of the elected leaders and making Jammu a better place for all.

Gupta ended his statement by acknowledging that it is not just the National Conference that is responsible for creating a better future for Jammu, but the collective effort of all its citizens. He encourages people to vote and take an active role in the development of their communities. "The National Conference's goal is to make Jammu a true model for the rest of the country to follow. The party believes that with their vision, strong leadership, and commitment to the principles of democracy, it can create a brighter future for the people of Jammu," he added. Babu Rampal former minister and Central Zone President said that the National Conference is known for its long-standing commitment to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The party has a strong

presence in the region, and has played a key role in shaping the political landscape of the state. It has always been a proponent of democracy, social justice, and economic development, he added. Sheikh Bashir Ahmed Provincial Secretary Jammu said the upcoming ULB elections are essential for the people of Jammu as it is a crucial stepping stone towards true democracy and accountability. He asked people to support NC in the upcoming polls in Jammu with an aim to get better services in the office of ULBs in Jammu city. Among those who were present include Bimla Luthra Ex-MLA, Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretary, Abdul Gani Tell P.P OBC Cell, Mohd Aslam Khan, Rakesh Singh Raka, Dr. Vikas Sharma Surjeet Singh Sasan, Nar Singh P.P Labour Wing, Pinky Khalsa District President Jammu Urban Women Wing S. Gurnam Singh Block President Jammu West, S. Parvinder Singh Block President Gandhi Nagar A, Haji Maqbool Block President Gandhi Nagar B, Sandeep Singh

Wazir, Devi Ditta, S. Aya Singh, Karan Singh, Ramesh Abrol, Manohar Singh, B.D. Dalnotra, S. Prithpal Singh, Som Raj Taroch, Vivek Gupta, S. Sewak Singh, S. Mohinder Singh, Harmohinder Singh, Ajay Kumar, Bahadur Lal, Madan Lal, Sham Lal Bhagat, Pritam Singh, Bhupinder Singh, Harmeet Singh, Manjeet Singh, Surjit Singh, Devinder Singh, Tarsem Lal, Bishan Dass, Nadeen Choudhary, Mohd Rafiq, Allah Rakhia, Ramesh Chander, S. Harjeet Singh, S. Ranjeet Singh, S. Inderpal Singh, S. Baljeet Singh, Manohar Lal, Durga Dass, Gagandeep Singh, Tanveer Singh, Feroz Khan, Sultan, Ajeet Singh, Ravinder Singh, Harvinder Singh, Gurdeep Singh, Pavneet Singh, Sarbjot Singh, Manpreet Singh, Mandjeet Singh, Jarnail Singh, Gurdeep Singh, Jaswinder Singh, Ramandeep Singh, Charanjeet Singh, Amit Choudhary, Kuldeep Sharma, Sham Lal, Ashok Kumar, Davinder Singh, Vimal Choudhary, Arun Sharma, Jang Bhadur, Pritham Singh, Simar Kour, Parvinder Kour, Joginder Kour and Kamaljeet Kour.

Master Sansar Chand Baru Memorial Trust workshop enters day 3

MSCBM Trust committed to excel art skills of J&K youth: Anuradha

JJ NEWS SERVICE

PAHALGAM, JUN 5: The week-long National Art Workshop 'Kavyabhoomii' organized by Master Sansar Chand Baru Memorial Charitable (MSCBC) Trust in collaboration with Petronel LNG at Pahalgam in Kashmir entered Day-3 here today. It is pertinent to mention here that the workshop has been organized to give impetus to the genre of arts in the Valley and to encourage the young and budding artists to explore their hidden artistic talent. While the renowned artists remained busy in pursuing their creations towards perfection, the main attraction of the day was the participation of school children in the artistic pursuit under the guidance and supervision of the renowned artists led by Anuradha Rishi.



Students of various schools including Govt Higher Secondary School Pahalgam, Model Higher Secondary School Pahalgam, M. S. Ganeshbal School, Pahalgam, M.S. Frisiana, and Govt School Chandanwari took part in the workshop and learned skills and techniques about the arts. Anuradha Rishi,

President of Master Sansar Chand Baru Memorial Charitable said J&K students have immense talent but there is acute shortage of art schools and colleges across this Union Territory. She said that Master Sansar Chand Baru Memorial Trust stands fully committed to support the students of J&K by providing them all possible assistance to excel their art skills. The renowned artists leading the national arts workshop are reflecting different themes and aspects of art making the endeavour a world class experience for the budding artists and the lovers of art, she added. The artists participating in the workshop expressed a lot of satisfaction and happiness in being part of this unique workshop in which not only got an opportunity in displaying their artistic creations but also helping the students of the Valley in bringing out their hidden artistic talent and enhancing the same. They said that it was a mesmerizing experience to work amid picturesque location in Pahalgam to which their visit to different locations within Pahalgam added a further flavour to broaden the artistic vision of the participating artists.

GCoE organised Workshop on Mission Life

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 5: NSS unit and Nature Club of GCoE in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change organised an awareness workshop on Sustainable Practices and Mission Life under the aegis of Mission Life on Sunday through Online mode.

Mr. Ajay Tanwar, consultant, MGNREGS, Ministry of Education was the resource person of the workshop. Prof. Aketa

Gupta, Principal, GCoE, in her address shed light on the Life mission, an initiative spearheaded by the Government of India, emphasizing the significance of energy conservation, reduction in single-use plastics, tree plantation drives, and the creation of micro-environments. Mr. Ajay Tanwar's insightful presentation motivated students to adopt eco-friendly behaviors as integral components of their lives. He highlighted the importance of embracing

natural lifestyles as a key strategy for environmental preservation. He also provided a comprehensive overview of the objectives and significance of World Environment Day, further underscoring the importance of environmental stewardship. The workshop served as a catalyst for participants to embrace environmentally conscious behavior and actively contribute to the preservation of our planet. Dr. Shubhra Jamal, NSS PO encouraged the

volunteers to adopt sustainable practices for Environmental Friendly Lifestyle. Dr. Shalini Sharma, Convener, Nature Club appreciated the team for organising such informative events which spread awareness about sustainable development and environment. The event was attended by 40 volunteers and faculty members which included Prof. Sarita Dogra, Prof. Seema Kumari, Prof. Shapia Shameem, Prof. Neeraj Verma and others

Apni Party deputation meets family members of terror attack victim Deepu

JJ NEWS SERVICE

MAJLATA, JUN 5: A deputation of Apni Party leaders led by Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister S. Manjit Singh today met deceased family members of Deepak Kumar also known as Deepu who was killed by terrorists recently in Anantnag and extended support to the next of kins of the deceased. Deepu was a circus worker who was killed near Jagland Mandi in Anantnag town. To express their solidarity with the bereaved family members, the Apni Party leaders led by S. Manjit Singh met the family members at their village in Thal village in Bilsapur Majlata following directions from Apni Party President Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari

sahib. "We came here to meet the family members who are in poverty. I am shocked to see that their house has no approach road, no clean drinking water supply nor do they have their own house," said Manjit Singh. He said that "Deepu belongs to a dalit family and his family has no other source of earning after the targeted killing of Deepu. All the six members in the family including his father, brother, sister-in-law, their two children and wife of Deepu are living in extreme poverty and they need to be provided financial support by the Gov." He expressed anguish over why no senior Govt official did not visit the family and see the condition of their mud house which has no facilities, no electricity or drinking water. "It appears the family is being

discriminated against because they are dalits," he said, condemning the discriminatory approach of the authorities. In this situation, he demanded that the LG J&K Manoj Sinha should personally visit the family members of Deepu and extend support for the construction of concrete house, approach road, and clean drinking water. "The poor basic amenities of Majlata's village has exposed the false claims of the authorities that they have developed Jammu and Kashmir. The village is in the worst condition with people lacking basic amenities," he said. He further stated that "The Govt should ensure a proper house, approach road to the house, and Govt job to the wife of Deepu who has given birth to her child two days back."

CUJ celebrates World Environment Day

JJ NEWS SERVICE



JAMMU, JUN 5: World Environment Day was celebrated at Central University of Jammu. On the occasion, Vice Chancellor CUJ, Prof. Sanjeev Jain, reiterated the importance of seven themes of Mission Life (Lifestyle for Environment): Save Water, Save Energy, Reduce Waste, Adopt sustainable food systems, Reduce E-waste, Adopt healthy lifestyles and Say no to single-use plastic and Called for adopting Lifestyle for Environment. Talking about this year's theme "Beat Plastic Pollution", Prof. Jain encouraged the CUJ fraternity to not only make the campus completely plastic-free but also to innovate and educate to recycle plastic waste sustainably.

The other activities included Canteen awareness drives for adopting sustainable food systems and reduce food waste, Vaarta with housekeeping staff for streamlining the waste management plan, Best out of Waste 5 R (Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, Recycle) competition and Slogan Writing, Skit, and Quiz competitions on themes of Mission Life. A National Workshop on "Waste Literacy and Management" was also organized in collaboration with Indian National Young Academy of Sciences (INAYAS) where experts Dr. Arup K Mishra, Chairman, Assam PCB, Dr. Nikhil Dhawan from IIT Roorkee, Dr. Ejaz Ahmad from IIT (ISM) Dhanbad and Dr. Vishal Mishra from IIT BHU discussed and suggested the innovative waste man-

agement strategies, which can be adapted by the university as well as by the entire Jammu city. In another symposium on "Women in STEM as enablers of change in Amrit Kaal" with INAYAS, women achievers from six countries: Prof. Ulrike Lohmann (Switzerland), Prof. Vera Sergeeva (Russia), Dr. Frida Sidik (Indonesia), Dr. Alma Oravec (UK), Dr Raaga (Egypt), Dr Dulce M. Morales (Netherlands) along with Dr. Sudha Bhattacharya, INSA senior scientist, Ashoka University, India shared their story and encouraged the CUJ fraternity to contribute in saving environment by participation, persistence and leadership in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) disciplines.

Prof. Yashwant Singh, Registrar congratulated the entire CUJ fraternity for their meaningful contribution and coordination in making Mission Life activities a great success and a true mass movement. He also confirmed that the university administration does regular review meetings to ensure minimum use of paper by promoting digital communication. The entire CUJ fraternity was found determined to adapt and follow Lifestyle for Environment in all their actions. The program served as a catalyst for participants to embrace environmentally conscious behavior and actively contribute to the preservation of our planet.

Mining Deptt Kathua seizes 6 vehicles involved in illegal mining

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, JUNE 05: Geology & Mining Department Kathua today seized six vehicles including one excavator involved in illegal mining. The vehicles and excavator were seized during raids conducted by a team of Geology and Mining led by DMO, Rajinder Singh Rana at Nagri, Ravi River, Taraf Tajwal, Bhagti and main bazar Kathua.

The quantity of raw mineral lifted by the vehicles was also measured by the officials of the mining department and accordingly seizure memos were issued to the violators as per the extant rules. The excavator bearing No-JK08G-2567 was seized for excavating Nallah sand and vehicles bearing Nos-PB58F-8405, PB-NE4331, JK20A1765, C6091 and JK08-8691 for illegal transportation of crushed aggregate.

As informed by DMO Kathua, One vehicle has been handed over to Police Post Nagri and other were handed over to Incharge Police post Bhagti and penalty will be realized from them through Joint Director Office Jammu. DMO informed that a total of 03 excavators and 13 vehicles have been seized within two days during surprise raids by the department conducted at various locations of the district.

MP Jugal Kishore Sharma chairs DISHA meeting at Jammu, asks for efficient delivery of public services

JINNEWSERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 5
Member Lok Sabha Jammu-Poonch, Jugal Kishore Sharma today chaired the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DDCM) 'DISHA' meeting here in the PWD Guest House to review status and progress made under Central programs in Jammu District.

MP (Rajya Sabha) Gulam Ali Khatana, Chairman, DDC Jammu, Bharat Bhushan; Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Avny Lavasa; JMC Commissioner, Rahul Yadav, ADDC, Ramesh Kumar; CPO, Yoginder Katoch; Members DISHA Committee besides other concerned district officials were present in the meeting. At the outset, the Member Parliament reviewed the



action taken report on the decisions taken in the previous DISHA meeting. The MP took a comprehensive review of physical and financial achievements under central schemes MGNREGA, PMGSY, 14th FC, RURBAN, Amrit Sarovar, PMGSY, JIM, MPLADS, Languishing Projects, Ayushman Bharat, NRLM, PMAY-G, Swachh Bharat Mission, etc. The MP also reviewed the achievements under the schemes implemented by the PWD, PDD, Jal Shakti Department, Agriculture, Horticulture, Education, Social Welfare, Labor Department, Urban Development Department and others. The Deputy Commissioner gave a powerpoint presentation on the achievements and progress under different schemes and the status of the

under 16th Lok Sabha, out of 396 approved works, 388 have been completed in Jammu district while out of 697 approved works for other districts, 676 works have been completed. Similarly, under 17th Lok Sabha, out of 155 works 75 have been completed in Jammu district, while out of 224 works 107 have been completed in other districts. The MP was also apprised that 75 Amrit Sarovars were identified in the district out of which work on 69 has been completed. Inquiring about mega road projects, the MP was apprised that maximum work on Jammu-Akhnoor highway and Ring Road project has been completed and remaining would be completed within a few months. Likewise, the entire 755.96 KM road length has been completed under PMGSY.

The MP emphasized on optimum utilization of available resources and instructed the concerned officers to closely monitor and follow the progress of all ongoing development works. Appreciating the efforts of the district administration, the MP expressed satisfaction over the overall progress achieved in the district in the implementation of the centrally sponsored schemes. He also advised the PRI and MC members to effectively monitor and help administration in successful implementation of the schemes. The MP directed the officers concerned to resolve the bottlenecks, if any and exhorted the officers and field functionaries to work as a team for better results and efficient delivery of services to the people.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Lt Governor chairs...

effectively tackle the menace of drugs. Sh R K Goyal, ACS, Home Department; Sh RR Swain, Special Dy CGD; Dr Mandep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; ADGs; Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, SSPs and other senior officers of Police and Civil administration also attended the meeting.

Lt Governor addresses...

mechanism to generate employment opportunities from such transformation. Speaking on the successful conduct of G20 Tourism Meet in Jammu Kashmir, the Lt Governor said the historic event has firmly placed the UT in the international tourism map. Our natural heritage of snow-capped mountains, magnificent peaks, rich forests, picturesque alpine meadows, serene lakes and streams needs to be protected from the threats of climate change, he added. "We are truly fortunate that nature has selflessly given us everything that is necessary for a better life and it is our bounden duty to show sensitivity towards nature and make efforts to conserve natural resources," he said.

The Lt Governor also highlighted the efforts of the central government and the UT Administration to reduce the impact of plastic pollution. Cohesive efforts in urban development and planning policies are determining the future of our cities. In the last three years, there has been a rapid increase in awareness about environment, especially among the youth, he said. The Lt Governor lauded the Forest Department for the continuous efforts to spread awareness and reduce the adverse affect of climate change to the environment through the initiatives like 'Har Gaon Haryali', 'Ped Lagao Beti Ke Naam', Green Life Contest, Mission LIFE and encouraging Jan Bhagidari in environment protection campaigns.

He also called for exploring all the possibilities to put to use the Green Technology and eco-friendly models showcased by the innovators and entrepreneurs from across the country and students from different schools during the exhibition. Sh Junaid Azim Mattu, Mayor SMC spoke on the Corporation's 'One Soul, One Tree' mission as a part of its endeavour to increase green cover in the city. City Biodiversity Index is an important tool for developing Srinagar as a sustainable city, he added.

Sh Aftab Malik, Chairperson, District Development Council Srinagar highlighted the significance of World Environment Day and creating awareness to tackle the environmental challenges.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary called upon the people, all stakeholders to adopt sustainable lifestyle and Green Technology and remove single-use plastic from their lives to achieve the goal of carbon neutral and litter-free J&K, he added.

Sh Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary, Forest Department and Sh Roshan Jaggi, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests highlighted the environmental conservation efforts of the department with active participation of people.

Under Mission LIFE, 10 lakh people participated in the 41,000 events organized across the UT, it was informed. Earlier, the Lt Governor administered the LIFE-Lifestyle for the Environment pledge to the officers, students, and citizens from different walks of life present on the occasion.

He also felicitated the winners of the Green Life Contest 2.0, and the organizations, citizens, members of plantation committees and schools for their extraordinary contribution in environment protection campaigns.

The occasion also witnessed the launch of the Mobile app BIRD 1.0 for status and monitoring of Forest Boundary Pillars, developed by Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing department.

Reports on Climate Resilient City Action Plan for Srinagar and Jammu, and Forest Density-based Area Treatment Prioritization were also released by the dignitaries.

Administrative Secretaries, PRI Members, HoDs, Senior Officers, Students and people in large numbers were present.

Jammu AIIMS to...

from incidents of mass casualties will have to be efficiently managed at AIIMS, Jammu," said the CEO. Dr. Anvika said that trauma is a major cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide and it is the fifth leading cause of death regardless of age and the first leading cause of death in the young population below 44 years of age and India ranks first in the number of road accident deaths across the 199 countries reported in the World Road Statistics, 2018.

"In order to mitigate and effectively manage trauma cases, there is a requirement to establish an Institute of Traumatology which will be the first of its kind and Center of Excellence so that the people not only from the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir but also from other parts of India and neighbouring countries will get benefitted," he said. He said that the Jammu AIIMS will have one of the biggest trauma centres for which the authorities have written to the Union Health Ministry for signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Israel's Sheba Medical Centre.

Chaim Sheba Medical Center at Tel HaShomer is the largest hospital in Israel, located in the Tel Aviv District city of Ramat Gan and was ranked as the 9th-best hospital in the world in 2020. The proposal will be referred to the Union Ministry of External Affairs and Home Affairs for further approval, he added.

"Such a center would provide telemedicine facilities to far-flung and difficult terrains in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of the Country," said Dr Gupta. He stated that all facets including prevention, clinical management, training (including simulations), skill development and skill up-gradation of various categories, data analysis, trauma registry, research, aero-medical evacuations and post-trauma rehabilitation will be incorporated in the trauma services.

"Since the systemic and specialised trauma care in India was almost non-existent till a decade back and now some development has been made in the recent past. The scope and level of institutional facilities for imparting and establishing such trauma care services are not available in India at present," the CEO, AIIMS said, adding that this Institute will be one of the most comprehensive and advanced hospitals in the world and a leading center of medical research.

"This will be the first traumatology institute of its kind to be opened in the country at Vijaypur AIIMS and with the strengthening of trauma management, critical patients not only from Jammu and Kashmir but also from Leh, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh will get direct medical benefits," he added. After the MoU, not only medical staff from Jammu AIIMS will be sent to Israel for trauma management training but experts from Sheba Medical Center will also regularly visit here in strengthening trauma management operations, which will surely benefit the patients, the official added.

It will be renowned for its commitment to clinical excellence and compassionate patient-centered care, applying the most advanced technologies and medical innovations.

"It will collaborate with prominent medical institutions and universities around the world, working in close synergy with leaders in the medical field and with high-tech innovators to develop new medical technologies," he revealed.

It would be a great success for the Country as this specialized Center of Excellence will be functioning on a systems approach for providing efficient trauma care facilities, Dr Gupta said adding, "it will be a regional and a national medical facility for effective day-to-day functioning as well as in times of disaster management of mass casualties requiring effective trauma care in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, other parts of India and also neighbouring countries."

Notably, as per 2022, J&K Traffic Police Report, there were 6092 road traffic accidents, which injured 8372 people and killed 805 people while there were 595 terrorist incidents and 58 bomb blasts/grenade attacks during the year 2020 in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, leading to a total of 158 injuries and 320 deaths.

These facts amply depict that there is a very high incidence of morbidity and mortality due to trauma cases including road traffic accidents, and require a holistic approach to be adopted for their reduction," said Dr Gupta.

The Jammu AIIMS, likely to be inaugurated by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in October this year, will become operational with 50 departments established

Building Demolition...

this Directorate within ten days with all related papers regarding the case, read an order. It further stated that pending an enquiry, Chief Executive Officer Kathua, Santosh Kotwal is attached in office of Directorate of Urban Local Bodies, Jammu with immediate effect and Jodh Raj, Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Ramgarh will look after additional charge of Municipal Council, Kathua till further orders.

The building owners alleged that the demolition drive was carried out without issuing any notice to them and they have also filed a plea in the High Court and the hearing is scheduled for Friday.

Govt orders transfer...

Ramsoo, in addition to his own duties, till further orders. Dr. Shujawat Ahmad Qureshi, JKAS, District Mineral Officer, Kupwara, is transferred and posted as Executive Officer, J&K State Haj Committee, on deputation basis, for a period of two years or until further orders, whichever is earlier. During his deputation, the officer shall retain lien and promotion prospects in his parent cadre i.e. Jammu & Kashmir Administrative Service.

Highest ever investments...

under NIP investments worth about Rs 2200 Cr have been made in J&K till previous financial year 2022-23. These units have come into production recently creating employment opportunities for nearly 10,000 youth.

Moreover it was revealed that the current financial year 2023-24 is turning out to be a successful year in terms of investments actually made on ground. It was elucidated that till date the work started on Industrial units has reached to nearly Rs 5500 Cr. These units shall provide jobs to many more youth in the months to come.

Similarly the Industries Department has allotted land in respect of 1854 units out of which 854 have paid the premium. In addition 560 units have signed lease deeds and have taken over the possession of the land allotted for starting work on their units as mandated under NIP.

The success is attributed to steps taken by the LG Administration such as Business Reform Action Plan, Ease of Doing Business (BRAP-EoDB) under which 352 BRAP points have been completed and 3188 burden compliances have been reduced.

It also involves providing 167 services of 18 departments on single window portal for seamless services to the prospective investors besides developing new Industrial Estates and improvement of existing infrastructure.

It is pertinent to mention here that Jammu and Kashmir has indeed received first Foreign Direct Investment when Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha laid foundation stone of Mall in Srinagar to be constructed by Dubai's Emaar Group last year.

All these innovative steps coupled with that of peace, progress, accountability and transparency is boosting the confidence of investors to invest in J&K as an ideal investment destination in the country.

12 injured as tempo...

The accident happened at the Rah Saloyote area after the tempo driver lost control over the vehicle, they said. All the injured have been shifted to sub-district hospital in Sunderbani, they said.

Record 38.47 Lakh...

Anshul Garg said that likewise every year, heavy footfall of pilgrims to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Cave Shrine is expected for which all arrangements are being reviewed time to time and put in place.

Garg said that presently on weekdays, 35,000 to 40,000 pilgrims are reaching on a daily basis at Katra and the figure exceeds on the weekends.

The CEO added that the Shrine Board is geared up with foolproof measures to ensure the best pilgrimage experience to the visiting devotees as the burgeoning devotees is anticipated at the Holy Shrine over the next couple of months located in Trikuta Hills of Katra town in Reasi.

"Action is taken on diverse fronts for hassle free pilgrimage during coming days including issuance and verification of RFID cards, effective crowd management,

augmentation of holding areas on the track and in Katra town, working out plans for decongestion of the entire track, particularly the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, exit routes at Bhawan," he said.

Garg also revealed that all time surveillance has to be done through a dedicated CCTV network of over 700 cameras.

Meanwhile the Northern Railways has also started three special trains from New Delhi to Katra from June 2 to July 30.

"Three summer special trains from New Delhi to Jammu to Katra have started operating from June 2 to cater to the rush of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrims," official sources said.

Efforts on to bring...

#beatplasticpollution. The Awareness Rally was flagged off from Atal Setu Bridge and culminated at TRC Basohli.

DDC Chairman Kathua Col. Mahan Singh, also flanked the Secretary at the launch of a 'Plantation Drive'. Director of Tourism Jammu, Vivekanand Rai, Special Secretary, Tourism Department, J&K, Amarjeet Singh, Yasir Balwan, Joint Director (Planning), Tourism Department J&K, Chief Executive Officer Bani Basohli Development Authority, Desh Raj Bhagat and Joint Director Tourism Jammu, Sunaina Sharma and other officers of the Tourism Department and District Administration Kathua were also present.

The dignitaries also visited the Departmental Stalls and interacted with the artisans of local Handloom and Handicraft products which were displayed at the venue under the theme "Jammu Raji Kalam Mahapurnam".

Live Basohli Painting exhibition was also organized on this occasion which received huge appreciation from the visiting dignitaries. Also, the Department of Handloom, J&K had put on a live display of traditional charkha.

The main highlight of the festivities was Water sports activities organised by the Department during the event. Shah along with his team of senior officers participated in water sports activities like Boating, Jet Skiing, Cruise along with local stakeholders.

The day-long festivities also included mesmerising cultural performances by the artists of J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages. The festivities concluded with the distribution of certificates to the participants of the Live Painting Competition in which first place went to Shivakashi Sharma, Rekha Rani fetched second place and Aastha Billawaria stood in third place.

Among others present on the occasion included Sumesh Sapolia, Chairman MC Basohli, Sushma Janwal, BDC Pahi, Sushma Thakur, BDC Dhar Mahanpur, Tejinder Singh DDC, Member Mahanpur, Abdul Jabbar, Deputy Director Tourism (Publicity and Adventure) Jammu, Arif Lone, Assistant Director Tourism NHW Batote, Sheena Sahni, Assistant Director Tourism Jammu, Pradeep Shah, Assistant Director Handloom/Handicrafts Kathua among other officers and officials of the Tourism Department and District Administration Kathua.

J&K Police to "approach"...

among youth but also including them for anti-national activities," sources added. "The properties of the terrorists who fled to Pakistan have been identified and further action will be taken as per the law," sources said.

"The help of Interpol will be taken to arrest identified terrorists to bring them to India. Moreover, J&K Police, Army and other sister concern agencies are ensuring that no terrorist activities take place these belts and youth is also being counselled through different events like sports, skill development programmes, educational and promotional events, tours and many such plans so that they can be prevented from adopting the wrong path," they said.

In October last year, Union Home Minister Amit Shah in his address at the closing session, of Interpol's 90th General Assembly, organized in New Delhi during the 75th year of India's independence had said that terrorism is a global problem and it is very appropriate that it is the first and most important of the seven global policing goals of Interpol for the period 2020-2025.

India is one of the oldest members of Interpol. It joined Interpol in 1949, Shah said.

India is committed to working with Interpol to fight all forms of terrorism and to provide technical assistance and human resources, said Shah.

NC slams BJP's "Maha Jan Sampark Abhiyan" for dividing country on communal lines

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 5: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) has launched a scathing attack against the month-long campaign initiated by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) called the "Maha Jan Sampark Abhiyan". The party alleged that the BJP has failed to deliver on its promise to the people of India and has only succeeded in dividing the country on communal lines.

Criticizing the "Maha Jan Sampark Abhiyan" campaign initiated by the BJP to celebrate the 9 years of Modi government at the Centre, Zeeshan Rana, Additional Spokesperson JKNC said that the BJP has failed to deliver on its promises to the people of India and has only succeeded in dividing the country on communal lines.

The NC leader said that the 9-year rule of the Modi government has been disastrous for the country. He said the government at the

Centre has failed to address the pressing issues of unemployment, inflation, and communal hatred, and has instead worsened these problems.

"The government has been unable to create jobs for the youth of the country despite promising to do so. The unemployment rate in India has reached an all-time high and millions of educated youth are still unemployed. The Modi government's policies have failed to generate employment opportunities, and as a result, the youth are suffering," he said.

The senior NC leader said inflation too, has been a major issue under the BJP government. The government's poor policies have led to a rise in the prices of essential commodities, causing immense hardship to the common man, he added.

Rana said communalism and the hatred between different communities has also worsened in recent years. "The government has time and again played the communal card to win

elections and has pitted one community against the other. This has led to a deepening of the fault lines in Indian society," he said.

The NC Spokesperson said that the situation is no different in Jammu and Kashmir, where the people are suffering under the BJP government's policies. He said that there is a lack of democracy in Jammu and Kashmir, with the people not being able to elect their popular government. The BJP government has failed to fulfill its promise of restoring democracy in the state and has instead put the people of J&K under tremendous pressure, he added.

Rana further added that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have suffered immensely under the BJP government's policies. The abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of the state into two Union Territories has caused immense hardship to the people of J&K, who are still struggling to come to terms with the changes.

"The BJP government's

lack of understanding of the complex issues of J&K has only made things worse, with the people feeling increasingly alienated from the mainstream," he added.

Zeeshan Rana called for an end to the politics of hate and communalism and for the restoration of democracy in J&K.

He asked the Modi government to take concrete steps to address the issues of unemployment and inflation and to put in place policies that will generate employment opportunities and help the common man.

The NC leader has called on all political parties to come together and work towards the betterment of the people of India and Jammu and Kashmir. He asked BJP to stop playing politics and to focus on addressing the pressing issues facing the country. He advised the Modi government to take concrete steps to address the pressing issues of unemployment and inflation and to restore democracy in Jammu and Kashmir.

Gul, Rampaul distribute several items at JRC Udheywala

NC has always kept the interests of specially abled children in mind

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 5: A programme was today organized by the Central Zone J&K National Conference (JKNC) at JRC Home for Handicapped, Udheywala for reaching out to specially abled children and several items were distributed for use of deaf and dumb children of the home.

Former Speaker and senior NC leader, Mubarak Gul was the chief guest on the occasion whereas former Minister and Zonal President JKNC, Babu Rampaul presided over the function. The program was organized by Dr Vikas Sharma, Zonal Secretary and Coordinator Jammu District (Urban), JKNC.

The NC leaders handed over ceiling fans and pedestal fans to the Home authorities for the use of Children. They also distributed eatables and shared their time with the specially-abled children residing in the home.

Mubarak Gul lauded the initiative of a young NC leader for organizing such programs which motivates everyone to come forward and extend helping hand in meeting the requirements



of specially-abled people. He said, "It is our moral duty to come together for noble cause and maintained that his party cadre will continue to tread the path of humanity and humility."

Babu Rampaul while speaking on the occasion said that every child is born with a talent and the need is to hone and shape their hidden talent. He also laid stress on skill oriented studies for these children to help them in all manners to make them self dependent.

Rampaul further said that NC has always kept the interests of specially abled children in mind and assured them all possible

help in the coming future also. Former minister also assured the management that, if voted to power, the NC will make all possible efforts to ensure a dignified life for these children and vocational training institutes for specially abled children will be promoted to make them self dependent.

Dr. Vikas Sharma while speaking on the occasion said that these children are a gift of God and being a civilized society it is the duty of all of us to help them in all manners to make them self dependent. He said that their self dependency is the only option to live a dignified life.

Dr. Gourav Bharat Zonal Secretary, JKNC delivered the welcome address, Satish Sharma Secretary JRC Home for Handicapped presented vote of thanks and extended gratitude for this great act of philanthropy towards the leaders of the National Conference.

Among those who were present on the occasion included, Yonnis Ghat, Adv Aslam Choudhary, Raja Navid, BJD Dalotra, Harsh Vardhan Singh, Dr Rajesh Singh, Ashok koul, Ravi Gupta, Ram Singh, Vikshay Vashist, Manohar Lal, Hemraj, Mursrat Malik, Sagar Lal, Romesh Lal, Subhash, and others.

IIMC Students and faculties took the pledge to save environment

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 5: The students, faculties and non-academic staff of Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), Northern Regional Campus, Jammu took the pledge on Mission Lifestyle for Environment (MLE) on Tuesday. On the occasion of World Environment Day, the pledge was recited by the students of Digital Media, English Journalism and Hindi Journalism of IIMC and promised to protect the environment. They also took pledge to moti-



vate their family members, friends and others about the importance of environmentally friendly habits. On this occasion, Prof. Anil

Saumitra, Regional Director, Dr. Dilip Kumar, Associate Professor and Dr. Vinit Utpal, Assistant Professor, Mr. Anoop

Kumar Wattal, Office Assistant along with all students and non-academic staff were also taken pledge.

World Environmental day celebrated at ward no 48 Bahu Fort

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 5: World Environmental day was celebrated at ward no 48 Bahu Fort, Jammu in collaboration with department of Environment and remote sensing Jammu University. Prof Piyush Malvia, Dr Deepika Slathia, Dr Rakesh Atri, Scholars, students from Jammu University and Sham Lal Basson Corporator ward no 48, Bahadur Lal President Saryara Sabha, Charanjit Sanitary Inspector Bahu Fort, Veena Supervisor, Rahul Nigran, Monty -Nigran, prominent persons from ward no 48 such Sham Lal Kalsi, Col Mohan Lal, Moti Ram Angal, Joginder Kumar, Kamal Kalsotra, Hans Raj, assembled at Gurudwara Shri Guru Ravi Dass ji Mahara bahu fort Jammu and lectures were delivered regarding importance of celebration of World Environmental Day.

While speaking on this Sham Lal Basson threw light on the importance of World Environmental Day, it's theme etc. He said that Bahu Fort, Jammu will be made no plastic zone.

He said that projects are under process which will be completed very soon. Some important projects are under consideration such as widening of roads, beautification of Bahu areas, construction of multistorey parking, installation of telescopic view point at Mohmaya temple area, extension of fish aquarium at bagh-e-bahu. Sham basson further said that different functions/competitions will be held with the help of department of Environmental sciences Jammu university to make people aware regarding "Beat Plastic Pollution" campaign in bahu fort area. More and more plantation will be undertaken during rainy season in bahu fort area. Plastic free zone of Bahu Fort will attract footfall of tourists. Sham Basson regretted that we have polluted soil, water and air which are directly related to health. We have to think that what we are providing to our coming generations.

JMC is also trying very hard to aware people of Jammu city to get Jammu Plastic free. Large number of events have been conducted under the supervision of Hon'ble Mayor and

Dr Mayor. Prof Piyush Malvia HOD of Department of Environmental Sciences Jammu university expressed detailed importance of World Environmental Day. He assured Sham Lal Basson Corporator ward no 48 to help to make Bahu Fort Plastic free zone. He threw light on United Nations efforts regarding global problem of deteriorating Environmental conditions.

Prof Piyush Malvia was accompanied by Dr Deepak Slathia, Dr Rakesh Atri, Scholars and students of his department.

A rally was organised which started from Gurudwara Shri Guru Ravi Dass ji Mahara Bahu Fort, Jammu which passed through bazaars and then entered Bazigar Basti and new Basti Bahu Fort, Jammu and Scholars and students interacted with residents and aware them to replace plastic bags with cloth/jute bags/biodegradable bags.

The locals appreciated the efforts of Sham Basson and staff of department of Environmental sciences Jammu university.

UFMC seeks JKCA's support, coordination for IFFJK to be held in August



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 5: Universal Film Makers Council (UFMC) director M A Mummigatti today called upon Jammu and Kashmir Cine Association's (JKCA) governing body seeking support, help and coordination for conducting the International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir to be held in the month of August in Jammu.

In a meeting held at Press Club Jammu today, Mummigatti and JKCA governing body dwelt in length and breadth about the upcoming international event in which films drawn from India, International JKUT will be showcased and various awards in different categories would be given.

Seeking support and coordination from JKCA, UFMC director Mummigatti said that since the association is the oldest association in Jammu and Kashmir, his alignment with the Ithesian filmmakers and directors in this event will help raise the standards of the IFFJK and also add to refinement and better conduct of the festival.

"I feel obliged and honoured to be in contact with JKCA as all the members and governing body of the association are themselves a strong pillar of film building who have contributed to Jammu and Kashmir cinema for many long years. Their association, I was looking forward to and hope that the upcoming event will be a historic one," said M A Mummigatti.

Dharminder Kohli, president JKCA while interacting with Mummigatti also laid down specific issues to be cleared before taking up association with the event and said that whole JKCA would be a supporting factor to UFMC in its endeavours and will provide whatever logistic support it needs to make IFFJK a successful event.

"We would discuss threabred with the association team and members and would definitely support the endeavour of Mummigatti.

The JKCA always wants genuine cinema and efforts to flourish here and see that the upcoming festival may also be a successful event devoid of any hassles," said Dharminder Kohli.

General Secretary Atul Vinod Duggal also supported the claims of the president and said that all bearings would be discussed and any lacuna in the process would be eliminated before taking up the event.

Pankaj Khajuria whose film 'Mehroom' is impacting the Jammu film goers also said that event is welcome provided it is inclusive of all good and substantive quality for Jammu participation.

The other governing body members who were present in the meet and put in their valuable suggestions for supporting IFFJK included Vikram Sharma, Rajesh Khajuria and Sudesh Verma.

Govt Polytechnic Jammu celebrates World Environment Day

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 5: On the occasion of "World Environment Day" today on 5th June, 2023, NSS unit of Govt. Polytechnic College in collaboration with Sports Wing organised Plantation Drive in college premises under the guidance of Principal, Er. Arun Bangotra and under the supervision of S. Dheeraj Kumar NSS Coordinator as per guidelines issued by Mission Meri LIFE (Dept of Higher Education, Ministry of Education)

the India-led global movement inspires people to take actions to protect and preserve the environment. The objective was to initiate a massive plantation drive, various saplings



were planted in the campus and all the staff and students unanimously stressed for conservation of College surroundings as green spots.

Other present on occasion Sh

Chamel Singh PEM (Member of NSS Wing), Smt. Toshi Devi PET, Ms. Itika Sharma (Member of NSS Wing), Sh. Vinay Kumar IRG Instructor and students of NSS Wing.

Koul, Manyal, Vibodh chairs preparatory meetings for different programmes under MJSA

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 5: Jammu & Kashmir BJP General Secretary (org) Ashok Koul, along with General Secretary & Incharge Maha Jan Sampark Abhiyan (MJSA) campaign Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, General Secretary and Incharge of Sanyukt Morcha, and Beneficiaries Sammelans Adv.

Vibodh Gupta held a meeting at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. In these meetings, general secretaries took stock of the preparations

being made for conducting sammelans of Sanyukt Morcha and beneficiaries. Ashok Koul, while speaking in the meeting, said among various programs being undertaken in the month of June under the party organizing joint progress of all the Morcha and also Sammelans of such beneficiaries who have been benefited by one scheme or the other of the PM Narendra Modi government.

He said that the party has assigned tasks to its leaders to supervise the successful conduct of these

Sammelans. Dr. Devinder Manyal said that the BJP activists in entire length of Jammu & Kashmir UT have gear up their activities to contribute in reaching the people with the achievements of Prime Minister Narendra Modi during 9 years.

The BJP cadre is enthusiastic and working overnight to ensure the participation of general public in programmes being undertaken at different levels under Maha Jan Sampark Abhiyan.

37 illegal water connections disconnected in Poochal Kishtwar

JI NEWS SERVICE

KISHITWAR, JUNE 05: To ensure equitable access besides to maintain a fair and reliable water supply system, the Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department Kishtwar today took a decisive action in the Poochal area by disconnecting 37 illegal/unregistered water connections.

A team led by Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) Rajesh Singh, along with Junior Engineer (JE) Mohsin Mushtaq and other field functionaries

from the PHE Sub Division Kishtwar, visited the Poochal to address the issue by disconnecting the illegal connections followed by sealing of the bores. The disconnection drive was initiated following the concerns raised by the local residents during the recent Block Diwas programme, where they apprised the Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav, about the prevalence of illegal connections.

The unauthorized connections have been causing water shortage and misappropriation of water supply meant

for the legitimate connection holders in the area. Responding promptly to the grievances expressed by the public, the Deputy Commissioner instructed the Executive Engineer, PHE to take immediate action and disconnect the illegal connections to ensure uninterrupted water supply amid the summer season. Executive Engineer PHE, Sunil Sharma informed that similar drives will be carried out in the future to establish a rationalized water distribution system across the habitations of the district.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

Murkier fight comes to an end?

Amid the ongoing tussle, wrestlers Sakshi Malik, Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat resumed their duties in the Railways. This came after the protesting wrestlers met Union Home Minister Amit Shah late Saturday evening. The protesting wrestlers were evicted from Jantar Mantar in Delhi recently. Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat too have joined work. The fight between top wrestlers and Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh turned murkier with sports-women who have accused him of sexual harassment received overwhelming support from different quarters. Even politicians too have jumped into the bout to make maximum out of it politically. Among the world-class, medal-winning wrestlers leading the fight for justice are Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia. The WFI chief has even offered to resign from the post with a precondition that the wrestlers would return from the protest site. It was seen as a major win for protesting sportswomen who had been forced to move the Supreme Court because their pleas to sports authorities and the Delhi Police were in vain. Thereafter, on the SC's order, the Delhi Police on Friday lodged two FIRs against Singh, including one under the POCSO Act for sexually abusing a minor wrestler. The WFI chief, now being booked under a non-bailable offence, has been put in the dock after the SC decision. The controversial Singh, who is also a powerful BJP MP, claims to be innocent but definitely the SC ruling has brought a lot of worries for him. Singh had been evading action over the heinous charges levelled against him. The agitation of the aggrieved players, who are backed by international stars, began for justice in January. Fetted by the country for their feats, they were confident of their cry being heard by the powers that be. They even turned down support offered by political bigwigs from the CPM and the Congress. Displaying the sporting spirit, they called off their dharna on January 23 after being assured of an investigation into their complaints by the Indian Olympic Association's Oversight Committee (OC), headed by champion boxer Mary Kom. The government had succumbed to the relentless protests by some of the country's top wrestlers and appointed boxing great MC Mary Kom-lead five-member Oversight Committee to probe sexual harassment charges against the powerful WFI president. At that time, an ugly bout had been played out, not in the sporting arena but at Jantar Mantar in Delhi where female wrestlers had leveled serious allegations against the WFI president. It was a courageous attempt to clean up the management of wrestling which has been bringing glory to India with its rich haul of medals at global platforms. However, last week, they suffered a jolt and were forced to amp up their protest when the OC report was not made public by the Sports Ministry. They sat on a dharna again and, this time, welcomed the support of politicians and fellow players. The field of sports is no stranger to complaints of sexual misconduct by those at the helm. Only exemplary action against sexual predators can clean up the mess. Though it is not clear as to what protesting wrestlers have been assured, yet the need of the hour is that the government should ensure a fair investigation and trial in the matter so that truth comes out.

NEPAL PM TICKS THE RIGHT BOXES DURING INDIA VISIT

BUILDING ECONOMIC TIES, FACILITATING TRADE AND BOOSTING CONNECTIVITY ARE THE IMPERATIVES FOR NEPAL.

MANJEEV SINGH PURI

NEPAL'S Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda was on a four-day official visit to India from May 31 to June 3. This was his first foreign trip after taking over as PM in January. Six months, though, to undertake the first overseas visit is a bit unusual for Nepali PMs, but the circumstances under which he became Prime Minister appear to have kept him engaged.

The December 2022 elections had thrown up a fractured verdict in the 275-member House of Representatives. Former PM Sher Bahadur Deuba's Nepali Congress, which had an electoral understanding with Prachanda's Maoist Centre, won 88 seats, while the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist or UML) of ex-PM KP Sharma Oli won 79 seats. Prachanda's party got only 32 seats; with the support of some smaller parties, Deuba appeared to be in the driving seat till Prachanda pipped him to the PM's post in January with the support of the UML. Shrewdly, he kept a door open with Deuba and switched alliances in March, when the election was held for the President of Nepal, and he chose to back the Nepali Congress candidate and not the one put up by the UML.

In an interesting twist of fate, Ram Chandra Paudel, who was consistently bested by Deuba in the quest for leadership of their party, became Nepal's Head of State! Prachanda's government is now essentially a coalition of the Nepali Congress, his Maoist Centre and the Madhesi parties, who by themselves emerged splintered after the election. The presence of the Nepali Congress in the government and its candidate as the country's President are usually comforting signs for India.

Receiving Prachanda at Hyderabad House, Prime Minister Modi envisioned taking the India-Nepal ties to Himalayan heights. To this end, three major completed infrastructure projects were inaugurated virtually and three more were launched, including integrated checkpoints that facilitate trade, new electricity transmission lines and the extension of the oil pipeline system to include eastern Nepal and extend the existing pipeline to Chitwan. Storage facilities for these pipelines



would also be constructed in Nepal. Discussions have also started on building a fertiliser plant in Nepal, something that would be of critical usefulness for Nepali agriculture.

Hydropower is Nepal's foremost economic asset. Tapping it and wheeling the power to India has game-changing economic benefits to Nepal and helps meet India's massively growing demand for electricity, even more important in today's times of climate change where the imperative is to eschew fossil fuel-based energy generation. Till a few years back, Nepal was importing power from India, but is today exporting 450 MW to India.

With work on the 900-MW Arun III project proceeding apace (being developed by Shimla headquartered SJMIL), the visit saw matters finalised for the 700-MW Lower Arun project too. All of this would make Nepal a major producer of hydropower in the coming years; a landmark agreement was reached for importing 10,000 MW from Nepal in the coming 10 years.

India is by far Nepal's biggest trading partner and continues to remain the critical partner for its economy, which has taken a severe hit from Covid and its fallout. Building economic ties, facilitating trade and boosting connectivity are imperatives for Nepal and have rightly been the main stay of substantive action during the visit. Prachanda, while congratulating

PM Modi on his government's achievements in the past nine years, was appreciative of India's leadership and willingness to give voice to the Global South during its G20 presidency. It was good that he noted that India and Nepal would work through diplomatic channels on the contentious issue of territorial claims by Nepal. This was important as the eve of the visit saw an attempt to rekindle the row by referring to a mural about Ashoka's empire in the new Parliament building by his one-time comrade and now possibly bete noire, ex-PM Baburam Bhattarai.

Prachanda was in India for the fourth time as PM, but, interestingly, the first time in the traditional dress doura surawal. His communist upbringing ensured his eschewing this dress, associated with the monarchy, during his previous two terms as PM, in 2008-09 and 2016-17. However, Nepali politics is not one of hardcore adherence to ideology and Prachanda appears to have decided that this makeover is the need of the hour. Not surprisingly, projects related to the Ramayana circuit were agreed upon and his trip included temple visits to Indore and Ujjain. In 2016, he had visited the hydropower project in Nathpa Jhakri and Patanjali's herbal unit in Haridwar. As someone who knows India well, including from his longish incognito sojourn during the days of the Maoist insurgency in

Nepal, Prachanda is certainly signalling India too. This signal is also reinforced by India being the first port of call this time, unlike his previous stints as PM when he made China the destination of his first overseas trip. Perceptions about him in India would certainly be known to him. Significantly, on the eve of the visit, the President of Nepal signed a Bill into law that would facilitate grant of Nepali citizenship to Indian women married to Nepali men, a longstanding demand of the Madhesh. This Bill had been opposed by the Chinese, who fear easy grant of Nepali citizenship to Tibetans. Of course, the prominent presence of his daughter with him throughout the trip was another signal that mustn't be missed. Prachanda's India visit appears by various measures to have gone well. He has hopefully re-established chemistry with India's leadership through bilateral moves on development issues that should bring benefits to the people of Nepal and its economy. Given the 'aaya ram gaya ram' approach of Nepali politics, the question upstream on people's mind is about the longevity of his government. In this, while he may be able to manage external factors, the numbers in the House of Representatives are such that the appetites of both Deuba and Oli will continue to remain whetted, and Prachanda must remain the master juggler.

India must play a bigger role in ending Russia-Ukraine conflict

PK VASUDEVA

THE whole world is worried about the 15-month-old Ukraine war, which has pulled down the economies of the majority of the countries to the lowest levels. The war has given a massive shock to the global economy, especially to energy and food markets, squeezing supply and pushing up prices of essentials to unprecedented levels. Compared with other economic regions, the euro area has been particularly vulnerable to the economic consequences of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The chances of a nuclear war are remote, though Russian President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly warned that he can resort to nuclear weapons. On September 21, 2022, he said he would use "all weapon systems available" to defend the "territorial integrity" of Russia, if threatened.

India has traditionally pursued a policy of non-alignment and neutrality in international conflicts. New Delhi has expressed concern over the ongoing conflict and called for a peaceful resolution to the crisis. Some countries are of the opinion that Prime Minister Narendra Modi can mediate in bringing about peace as he is close to both Putin and US President Joe Biden.

India has consistently supported Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty and abstained from voting in the UN General Assembly on a resolution

RESOLVING A CONFLICT OF THIS MAGNITUDE REQUIRES THE COMMITMENT AND COOPERATION OF ALL PARTIES INVOLVED.



that underscored the need for 'comprehensive, just and lasting peace' in Ukraine.

In 2015, India abstained from a United Nations General Assembly resolution condemning the annexation of Crimea by Russia, citing its policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries. India has also called for a peaceful resolution to the conflict through diplomatic channels and advocated for the implementation of the Minsk agreements. India's stance was criticised by some countries,

including Ukraine, which argued that New Delhi should have taken a stronger stand on Russia's actions. India has played a constructive role in international peacekeeping efforts, particularly through its participation in United Nations missions. It has a long history of contributing troops to UN peacekeeping missions and has played a significant role in maintaining peace and security in conflict-affected regions around the world.

India enjoys credibility in the comity of nations. The Indo-Pacific Forum

countries have expressed eagerness to cement cooperation with India after New Delhi's vaccine diplomacy and humanitarian relief in their time of need. Bilateral ties with Australia are also showing significant progress. The meetings between PM Modi and his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese have been marked by mutual trust and respect. After working hard to improve relations, the two sides broke new ground with Australia willing to supply lithium to India for electric car batteries.

On the sidelines of the recent G7 Summit in Hiroshima, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy presented PM Modi with a peace plan to end the war with Russia and sought India's endorsement. He also invited Modi to visit Ukraine.

According to authoritative sources, Zelenskyy made no demands on India except seeking support for his peace proposal as he felt that many countries looked towards the largest democracy in the world. The proposal is being given consideration by the Modi government.

Effecting a ceasefire in the Ukraine war is a complex issue that involves multiple parties and geopolitical considerations. Some of the steps that can contribute to the pursuit of a ceasefire are: encouraging diplomatic efforts to facilitate negotiations between the conflicting parties, including Ukraine, Russia and separatist groups in eastern Ukraine; engaging international mediators or organisations, such as the United Nations or the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), to facilitate dialogue and peace talks; urging international actors, such as the US, European Union and neighbouring countries, to exert diplomatic pressure on the conflicting parties to cease hostilities. Economic sanctions, diplomatic isolation and other political measures may be used

to encourage compliance with a ceasefire. Confidence-building measures are a must to create an environment conducive to dialogue and trust-building between the parties involved. This can include exchanges of prisoners, withdrawal of heavy weaponry and the implementation of localised ceasefires in specific areas.

Besides, there is a need to ensure unrestricted access to humanitarian aid and assistance to the affected regions, including medical supplies, food and shelter for civilians caught in the conflict. Humanitarian access should be granted to both sides to alleviate the suffering of the population and build goodwill, besides establishing an effective mechanism for monitoring and verifying the implementation of the ceasefire, potentially involving international observers and peacekeeping forces. These entities can help report ceasefire violations and build confidence among the parties by ensuring compliance with agreed-upon terms. Political dialogue and reconciliation to address the conflict's root causes, including political, economic and ethnic grievances, should be encouraged. Engaging all stakeholders, including representatives of the conflict-affected regions, can help address underlying issues and work towards a sustainable peace agreement.

Actor Gufi Paintal of 'Mahabharat' fame dies at 79

Actor Gufi Paintal, best known for playing 'Shakuni mama' in the epic TV serial 'Mahabharat', died on Monday at a hospital here due to age-related issues, his nephew Hiten Paintal said.

He was 79. The veteran actor, whose real name was Saravjit Singh Paintal, was admitted to a hospital in suburban Andheri. "Unfortunately, he is no more. He passed away at the hospital at around 9 am. His heart gave up. He passed away peacefully in his sleep," Hiten told PTL.

Hiten had earlier told PTL that his uncle was not keeping well due to age-related health issues.

He had blood pressure and heart issues. He was keeping unwell and all this was going on for a while. Things got severe now so we got him to the hospital for observation. He has been in the hospital for seven to eight days. He was critical initially, but right now he is stable," Hiten had told PTL Actor

Mukesh Khanna, who played Bhishma in the DD series, said he had a long association with his 'Mahabharat' co-star.

"I had a long relationship with him since 'Mahabharat' and cast him in 'Shaktimaan' later. In 'Mahabharat', we had long confrontational scenes between each other. He was the one who called me for 'Mahabharat' and that marked the beginning of our association. He was the one who would call people, then there would be the audition," Khanna told PTL.

Cine & TV Artists' Association (CINTAA) paid tribute to Gufi Paintal (Member since Sept. 1992)," the trade union posted. Actor Nimrat Kaur remembered the actor as "the indelible Shakuni Mama from our childhood days".

"...such stellar contribution to the Indian cinematic landscape. Prayers and strength to the family.



Vicky-Sara's 'Zara Hatke Zara Bachke' raises Rs 22.59 crore in opening weekend



"Zara Hatke Zara Bachke", starring Vicky Kaushal and Sara Ali Khan, has earned Rs 22.59 crore in the first weekend of its release at the domestic box office, the makers announced Monday.

Maddock Films, the banner behind the romantic comedy, shared the movie's updated net box office collection in a poster on social media.

The weekend was filled with love! Audience, thank you for loving this hatke kahani. Pesh hai ek hatke kahani from the makers of 'Luka Chuppi' and 'Mimi'. Book your tickets sahparivaar," the production house said in the tweet.

Set in Indore, "Zara Hatke Zara Bachke" follows a married couple Kapil and Somya, played by Vicky and Sara, who are headed for a divorce.

Directed by Laxman Utekar of "Luka Chuppi" and "Mimi" fame, the film was released in theatres country-wide on June 2.

Co-produced by Jio Studios, "Zara Hatke Zara Bachke" also stars Inaamulhaq, Sushmita Mukherjee, Neeraj Sood, Rakesh Bedi and Sharif Hashmi.

Project K Will Break Boundaries That RRR, Baahubali Didn't, Says Rana



Project K is back in news. Tollywood actor Rana Daggubati has made some interesting comments on Project K that have gone viral. A video of Rana talking at the India Today conclave South 2023 Rana saying, Prabhas's Project K film, we're really looking forward to in Telugu because that would break boundaries that Baahubali & RRR haven't done. "We celebrate each other's cinema fully. Like there is another film called Project K, which Nag Ashwin is directing with Prabhas, Amitabh Bachchan and Deepika Padukone. That's a film we are really looking forward to in Telugu. That film will, I think will break the boundaries that both Baahubali and RRR haven't done." He further said, "Pushing that boundary to the next edge. I am really looking forward to that film and it could really become a global film from Telugu (cinema)." Prabhas fans can't stop going ga ga over Rana's comments with some even going to the extent of responding with "Look we told you so!"

'School of Lies' review: A well-crafted series that pushes us to look within

School of Lies, directed by Avinash Arun Dhawara, is the latest mystery thriller based on true events that has been released on Disney+ Hotstar. Starring Nimrat Kaur, Aamir Bashir, Geetika Vidya Ohlyan, Sonali Kulkarni, and Jitendra Joshi the series consists of eight episodes with a runtime ranging between 33-39 minutes each.

Boarding schools can be haunting sometimes. However, in this case, it is not so much ghosts or phantoms haunting the place as it is the people residing within. The story unfolds following the mysterious disappearance of a 12-year-old boy, Shakti Salgaonkar, from the much sought-after boarding school RISE, leading to a chain of events where hidden and horrifying truths are dug up from within the school.

While finding Shakti is the main focus, there are also stories of other characters running parallel to it. The other part of the show focuses on actor Bashir, who essays the role of house master Sam, and two final-year students, Vikram (Varin Roopani) and TK (Aryan Singh

Ahlawat), who are living under Sam's guidance. Kaur plays a campus counselor Nandita Mehra, who is also out to connect with the students who had any connection to Shakti as she tries to help solve the missing case. The series has been shot in an eerie setting with a dark-toned backdrop, ensuring you are distressed over the missing child.

The plot has been structured well—addressing major issues like child abuse, bullying, underage drug use, the feeling of loneliness, and their hunger for freedom in a very effective way. The cinematography switches between dimly-lit scenes and stunning, bright landscapes of the hill station. The boarding school premises and architecture are also visually appealing, giving a rich backdrop for the children and adults, that in turn acts as a cover-up of their twisted lives.

School of Lies follows a non-linear narrative and often misleads viewers by not clearly distinguishing between the past and the present. Viewers might even feel let down at certain points where they

would not have been able to segregate a flashback from the present state. However, this tactic effectively maintains the mystery throughout.

Avinash Arun's show is dark, nuanced, and full of suspense that will keep you hooked throughout. The dialogue in the ending sheds light on how conditions in a boarding school impact children, as is stated by a student: "At best it's a compulsion. At worst, it's a prison".

Children's emotions and the pressure they go through in their teenage years and how parents, amid the chaos of their own lives, ignore the red flags given by their children until it is too late have been brought to light.

The frustration of wanting to know what is happening behind closed doors is exactly what keeps us going, and automatically makes you wonder if it was a case of kidnapping or something more threatening that pushed Shakti out, or if it was merely a willful escape.

That is for us to figure out after watching the show.

Chiranjeevi calls out media for 'unnecessary confusion' on cancer

Veteran actor Chiranjeevi has criticised some media reports for causing "unnecessary confusion" about his health by misquoting his recent remarks about undergoing a medical procedure for the removal of "non-cancerous polyps".

Recently at the launch of a cancer care centre, the Telugu cinema star had said that he was able to prevent cancer by undergoing regular medical tests.

In a Twitter post on Saturday night, the 67-year-old actor said some media organisations did not understand him properly and published reports saying, "I got cancer and I survived due to treatment".

"I said that non-cancerous polyps were detected and removed.

I only said, 'If I hadn't done the test first, it would have turned out to be cancer'. That's why everyone should take



precautions and undergo medical

tests/screening," Chiranjeevi wrote on the microblogging site.

The "Walairee Veenayya" star called out media organisations for writing "nonsense" without understanding the subject completely.

"Some media organisations did not understand this properly and started scrolling and web articles saying 'I got cancer' and 'I survived due to treatment'. This has caused unnecessary confusion.

"Many well wishers are sending messages about my health.

Clarification is for all of them. Also an appeal to such journalists. Don't write nonsense without understanding the subject.

Because of this, many people are scared and hurt," he added. Chiranjeevi will next be seen in "Bhoolaa Shankar".



I want to be a lambi race ka ghoda : Shriya Pilgonkar

Shriya Pilgonkar, daughter of veteran Marathi and Hindi actors Sachin and Supriya Pilgonkar, first acted as a boy named Bittu in the Hindi serial Tu Tu Main Main directed by her father at the age of eight. In 1996, she acted in a ten-minute stageplay Freedom of Love directed by Karan Shetty.

Shriya made her film debut in Hindi with Shah Rukh Khan starrer, Fan. She also worked in a trilingual movie, Kaadan. Now her career has taken off, thanks to OTT platform.

Excerpts from an interview: How do you look at your journey? I have performed as a

lawyer and a news reporter in Taaza Khabbar. In my latest series, Crackdown, I am getting to do out and out action. Crackdown has been super fun for me because compared to the other work, in this I'm playing a double agent. As actors, at some point we crave to do action. I like the interesting arches in my character. It's important for me as an actor to present myself differently. It's very easy to be stereotyped in this industry. It also depends how you end up picking your work. When will we see any of your films releasing theatrically? It depends upon the market situation and it's the producer's prerogative. I want to maintain a balance between series and films. I have 2 films – one will be announced soon, the other one is called, Ishq E Nadaan. It has Neena Gupta, Kawajpet, Lara Dutta and more. It has three different stories – an Urban, romantic drama. I don't know how they plan to release it. I also wish to mix my work with the commercial genre. It's important for me to build on my versatility as an actor. This is something that I am always looking at. I want my acting career to go on for a long time. Want to be a lambi race ka ghoda.

What kind of commercial films are you looking out for? Until now I have never got an opportunity to do an out and out dance film. But recently, I got that kind of a film. I just want to show that aspect in me. By the end of the day people are valuing good stories, so I don't want to just pick films for the sake of doing it. I would love to do a period drama as an actor. I visualize myself doing different cinematic work. Why are you not taking up more regional films like Tamil, Telugu...? I did a film with Rana Daggubati which was shot in Tamil/Telugu/Hindi – Haathi

Mere Saathi – directed by Prabhu Solomon. It was a beautiful experience but there were some release issues because of the covid. Tamil/Telugu/Malayalam industries have produced some wonderful films. With RRR its gone on to global scale. If I get more Tamil/Telugu films I will surely take it up. Do you like to mouth dialogues when you do regional films, especially south films? Though I am not fluent, I was speaking the language but it was dubbed by somebody else to get the right accent. Since it was my first time someone else dubbed for me.

Recognising the gendered impact of plastic pollution: A call for policy action

Women are at the forefront of battling the repercussions of plastic addicts

NEW DELHI: From single-use water bottles to food packaging and personal care products, plastic has permeated every aspect of our lives. Recognizing the grave environmental threat posed by plastic pollution, world leaders and policymakers, including the Government of India, have intensified their focus on environmental sustainability. However, the gendered impact of this growing hazard remains overlooked and inadequately addressed. Women, often relegated to the margins, are at the forefront of battling the repercussions of our plastic addiction. Their roles not only as primary consumers but also as workers in the informal waste sector in India make them particularly vulnerable. The rise of plastic pollution and the comparative disadvantage of women in the waste sector.

Despite India's strong focus on reduction of plastic consumption and pollution, plastic waste generation more than doubled between 2015-16 and 2019-20. As India's urban population surges to 800 million by 2050, waste generation will grow in parallel - with a proportionate increase in plastic waste. The urban informal waste management economy, which plays a critical role recycling 30 per cent



of India's annual 3.4MT of plastic waste, comprises a significant percentage of vulnerable groups - like women, children and recent migrants. Women make up 49 per cent of waste pickers in India and are disproportionately affected by hazards associated with landfills and dumpsites. Given their subordination in the value chain, female waste pickers cannot pick high quantities compared to men and are often left with low-value recyclables. Working in isolated locations, often without personal protective equipment and tools (that are more readily available to men) women ragpickers frequently miss out on a stable income. A study by Chintan Environmental Research and Action Group, revealed that women waste pickers earn 33 per cent less despite doing the same amount of work. The working condi-

tions make them susceptible to respiratory illness and infection. The higher proportion of fat in female bodies provides a larger reservoir for bioaccumulating and lipophilic chemicals from plastic, leading to greater absorption concentrations of toxic chemicals in women, even when the exposure rate is the same. According to a UN report, women handling plastic waste could face increased rates of breast cancer, infertility, miscarriages, and hormonal imbalances.

Women are also greater consumers of plastic. Around 90 per cent of products like sanitary napkins are made from plastic. As primary decision-makers within the domestic sphere, women are major purchasers of single-use-plastics (SUPs) for food and household items. Research by Manipal School of Life Sciences

found that such SUPs often contain bisphenol A, or BPA, which has the potential to cause metabolic-endocrine disorders like polycystic ovary syndrome in premenopausal women. Additionally, social norms have mandated women's greater consumption of plastic-packed beauty products. An overall ecosystem has thus been created wherein, despite being significantly more at risk to health threats from plastics, women cannot escape it. However, limited gender-disaggregated data and evidence around the comparative challenges that women in the plastic waste economy face, has meant that their enormous contribution in tackling this pollution, and the resulting impact on them, have not been adequately recognised. Strengthening collaboration and integration, the need of the hour in recent years, India's leadership, in a resolute response to the urgent issue of plastic pollution, has embarked on a series of bold initiatives. The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Mission), Lifestyle for Environment/LIFE - which promotes mindful consumption, the Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016 and banning SUPs have emerged as cornerstones in the battle against this environmental menace.

HP Governor Plants Rudraksh Sapling At University On World Environment Day

SHIMLA: Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla visited the CSK Himachal Pradesh Agricultural University in Palampur on the occasion of World Environment Day and planted a sapling of rudraksh here, a statement said.

The governor urged the students at the university to actively participate in tree plantation activities and environment to the protection of the environment, it said.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University, Dr. H.K. Chowdhary, Deputy Commissioner of Kangra, Dr.

Nipun Jindal, Superintendent of Police, Mrs. Shalini Agnihotri, and other dignitaries were also present during the plantation.

Earlier, Governor Shukla visited Kangra for a two-day stay in the district. He paid a visit to the residence of former Chief Minister Shanta Kumar at Yamini Complex and had a courtesy meeting with him, the statement said.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner Kangra, Dr. Nipun Jindal, on Monday initiated the 'Plastic Free Temple' project from Shri Chamunda Mata Mandir on the occasion of World Environment

Day to replace plastic flowers with real flowers in temples, the statement said.

Jindal also inaugurated a flower nursery and cultivation project at Sri Chamunda Nandikervar Dham near Dharamshala, it said. During the event, he planted Tikoma (bell flower) saplings and started a marigold flower nursery in the temple premises, it added. The project aims to replace plastic flowers with real flowers in temples and gradually implement it in all major temples of the district, the statement said.

CBI All Set To Take Over Probe Into Balasore Train Accident Case

According to the procedure, the CBI re-registers the local police FIR as its own case and starts the probe. It can add or remove a charge from the FIR in its charge sheet filed after the completion of its probe.

The CBI is all set to take over the investigation in the Balasore train accident that left at least 275 people dead and 1,100 injured, officials said. In accordance with the procedure, the central agency will take over the Balasore GRP case number 64 registered by Odisha Police on June 3, a day after the accident in Odisha involving two passenger trains and a goods train.

The case was registered under IPC sections 337, 338, 304A (causing death by negligence) and 34 (common intention) and sections 153 (unlawful and negligent act endangering lives of Railway passengers), 154 and 175 (endangering lives) of the Railways Act. It is likely to be allotted to Special Crime Unit at the Delhi Headquarters.

According to the procedure, the CBI re-registers the local police FIR as its own case and starts the probe. It can add or remove a charge from the FIR in its charge sheet filed after the completion of its probe. "We have recom-



mended a CBI probe into the triple train accident that claimed 275 lives and left over 1,000 injured," Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters in Bhubaneswar on Sunday evening. Railway officials have indicated that possible 'sabotage' and tampering with the electronic interlocking system, which detects the presence of trains, led to the Friday accident. The crash involving Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express

and Shalimar-Chennai Central Coromandel Express, which were carrying over 2,500 passengers, and a goods train laden with iron ore occurred around 7 PM on Friday near the Bahanaq Bazar station in Balasore, about 250 km south of Kolkata and 170 km north of Bhubaneswar. As many as 21 coaches were derailed and severely damaged in the accident, trapping hundreds of passengers.

Why were grave red flags ignored: Kharge to PM Modi on Odisha rail tragedy

NEW DELHI: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the Odisha railway tragedy, saying "all the empty safety claims" of Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw have now been "exposed" and the government must bring to light the real reasons that caused this grave accident.

In his letter to Modi, Kharge hit out at the Railway Minister for seeking a CBI probe, saying the law enforcement agency is meant to investigate crimes, not railway accidents. "The people in

charge your godself and Railway Minister Vaishnaw do not want to admit that there are problems," the Congress chief said.

"The Railway Minister claims to have already found a root cause, but yet has requested the CBI to investigate. The CBI is meant to investigate crimes, not railway accidents. The CBI, or any other law enforcement agency, cannot fix accountability for technical, institutional and political failures," Kharge argued. In addition, they lack the technical expertise in railway safety, signalling, and maintenance prac-

tices, he said. There is serious concern among the common passengers about this deterioration in safety of Railways, the Congress chief claimed. "Therefore, it is incumbent upon the government to ascertain and bring to light the real reasons that caused this grave accident," he said.

The crash involving Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express and Shalimar-Chennai Central Coromandel Express, which were carrying around 2,500 passengers, and a goods train on Friday has left 275 people dead and over 1,100 injured.

PM Modi's Stubbornness Led To BJP's Defeat In HP, Karnataka Polls: Rajasthan CM

RESTORATION OF THE OLD PENSION SYSTEM WAS ONE OF THE MAIN PROMISES MADE BY THE CONGRESS IN THE 2022 HIMACHAL PRADESH ASSEMBLY POLLS.

JAIPUR: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Monday claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "stubbornness" led to the BJP's defeat in the Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka assembly elections and that the party was set to lose in more states.

Addressing the 'Labharthi Utsav' programme, he claimed that said Modi was advised by then chief minister of Himachal Pradesh to adopt the old pension system for government employees, but he "remained adamant".

Restoration of the old pension system was one of the main promises made by the Congress in the 2022 Himachal Pradesh Assembly polls.

"The BJP tasted defeat in the Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka) due to the stubborn nature of the prime minister. There is no place for stubbornness in a



democracy," Gehlot said. He also urged the prime minister to examine the Right to Health Bill, 2022, passed by the Congress government in Rajasthan. "I would like to tell the prime minister that you should not make it a question of reputation. The prime minister is stubborn. He does what he feels like," the Rajasthan chief minister claimed.

Gehlot said that in democracy, one has to bow before the voters because "it is the vote which makes one win elections".

Targeting the BJP, the Rajasthan chief minister said the opposition party has nothing to say against his government because of the development works done by it.

Bankruptcy is not just lack of money, one can also be intellectually bankrupt, he said, targeting the BJP.

Asserting that no government should discontinue schemes of its predecessor, Gehlot said his government did not stop the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project ini-

tiated by the Vasundhara Raj government.

He demanded national project status for Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project so that it can complete in soon. Gehlot also said that he expected that Prime Minister Modi would confer national project status to the project during the latter's visit to Ajmer, but that did not happen.

Claiming that the schemes launched by the government were not "election-oriented" announcements but were meant to be in implementation for a long time.

During the 'Labharthi Utsav', benefits under the 'Indira Gandhi Gas Cylinder Subsidy' scheme were transferred to the ban accounts of 14 lakh registered beneficiary.

Under this scheme, launched on April 1, as many as 76 lakh families will be provided gas cylinders for Rs 500.

Indian Army chief meets B'deshi counterpart discusses issues of mutual interest

DHAKA, JUN 5: Indian Army chief Gen Manoj Pandey on Monday met his Bangladeshi counterpart General SM Shaifuddin Ahmed here and discussed various aspects of mutual interest and explored ways to further expand bilateral defence and security ties.

Gen Pandey, who arrived here earlier Monday on a two-day visit to Bangladesh - his second trip to the country as Army chief, also interacted with Lt Gen Waker-Uz-Zaman, the Principal Staff Officer of the Indian Army forces division. The Indian Army chief visited Bangladesh in July last year on his first foreign visit after assuming charge of the top post.

"General Manoj Pandey interacted with General SM Shaifuddin Ahmed, Chief of Army Staff, #BangladeshArmy & Lieutenant General Waker-Uz-Zaman, Principal Staff Officer, Armed Forces Division, #Bangladesh and discussed aspects of mutual interest," the Additional Directorate General of



Public Information said in a tweet. The Inter Services Public Relations Directorate (ISPR) - the media wing of the Bangladesh Armed Forces - in a statement said that Gen Pandey made a courtesy call on Bangladesh Army chief at army headquarters and thanked him for his invitation.

The two army chiefs discussed the existing bilateral ties and future cooperation for the progress of the two countries, the statement added. "The Indian Army chief's visit is expected to play an important role in promoting relations between Bangladesh and India," the statement added. Gen Pandey laid a

wreath at Shikha Anirban and paid tributes to soldiers who laid down their lives for the Liberation of Bangladesh. He also received the Guard of Honour at Senkanja and planted a sapling to commemorate the friendship between the two Armies.

On Tuesday, Gen Pandey will be reviewing the Passing Out Parade (POP) of officer cadets of the 84th 'Long Course' at the Bangladesh Military Academy (BMA) in south-eastern Chattogram.

During the parade, the Army Chief will be presenting the 'Bangladesh India Friendship Trophy' instituted for the best foreign cadet

from friendly foreign countries of the passing out course from the BMA.

The first trophy this year is being awarded to officer cadet Everton of Tanzania.

This trophy is in reciprocation to the 'Bangladesh Trophy and Medal' instituted at the Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun in December 2021 for Best foreign cadet passing out the course, the Army said in a statement.

The Army chief will be reviewing the POP at IMA, Dehradun on June 10 and presenting the Bangladesh Medal and the trophy.

The Bangladesh Chief of Army Staff visited India in April this year and reviewed the passing out parade at the Officers Training Academy in Chennai. The Indian High Commission in a statement said that these high-level exchanges of visits "provide an opportunity to both sides to renew the close bonds of friendship and fraternal ties that exist between the Armed Forces of India and Bangladesh".

Russia claims Ukraine is launching major attacks Kyiv accuses Moscow of misinformation

KYIV, JUN 5: Ukrainian forces were making a major effort to punch through Russian defensive lines in southeast Ukraine for a second day, a Moscow-installed official claimed on Monday as Russia's Defence Ministry asserted it had filed an assault in another illegally annexed region of the invaded country.

Kyiv authorities suggested the attack reports were a Russian misinformation ruse as the Ukrainian military prepares for a widely anticipated counteroffensive.

Vladimir Rogov, an official in the Russia-backed administration of Ukraine's partly occupied Zaporizhzhia province, claimed fighting resumed there early on Monday after Russian defences beat back a Ukrainian advance the previous day.

"The enemy threw an even bigger force into the attack than yesterday," and the new attempt to break through the front line was "more large-scale and organised", Rogov said, adding "a battle is under way".

Rogov interpreted the Ukraine military movements as part of an effort by Kyiv to reach the Sea of Azov coast and cut the land



corridor to Crimea, which Moscow annexed in 2014. Analysts have long viewed that strategy as likely because it would cut the Russian forces in two and severely strain supplies to Crimea, which has served as a key Russian military hub in the war that started in February 2022. Rogov's comments came after Moscow also claimed to have thwarted large Ukrainian attacks in the eastern Donetsk region, another of the four provinces that President Vladimir Putin claimed as Russian territory last fall and partially controls.

Russia's Defence Ministry claimed it had pushed back a "large-scale" assault on Sunday at five points in Donetsk province.

The claims could not be independently verified, and

Ukrainian officials did not confirm any assaults, but the reports fueled speculation that a major Ukrainian ground operation could be underway as part of the anticipated counteroffensive.

A video published by the Ukrainian Defence Ministry showed soldiers putting a finger to their lips in a sign to keep quiet. "Plans love silence," it said on the screen. "There will be no announcement of the start." The Centre for Strategic Communications of the Armed Forces of Ukraine said on Telegram that Russian forces were "stepping up their information and psychological operations".

"In order to demoralise Ukrainians and mislead the community (including their own population), Russian

propagandists will spread false information about the counteroffensive, its directions and the losses of the Ukrainian army. Even if there is no counteroffensive," a statement on Telegram read.

Ukrainian officials have kept Russia guessing about when and where it might launch a counteroffensive, or even whether it had already started. A possible counteroffensive, using advanced weapons supplied by Western allies, could provide a major morale boost for Ukrainians 15 months after Russia's full-scale invasion.

Recent military activity, including drone attacks on Moscow, cross-border raids into Russia and sabotage and drone attacks on infrastructure behind Russian lines, has unnerved Russians. Analysts say those actions may represent the start of the counteroffensive.

The Russian military on Monday claimed to have repelled the latest Ukrainian incursion into Russia's Belgorod region, on the border in Ukraine. Russians who purport to be fighting alongside Ukrainian forces said they attacked on Sunday.

Pledge taking, awareness events mark observance of World Environment Day across Jammu Division

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 05: To observe World Environment, awareness events, plantation drives and numerous other activities were held in Educational Institutions and Government departments across Jammu Division to reaffirm the need for a mass movement to save the earth from unforeseen environmental disasters.

At Bagh-e-Bhour Garden Jammu Department of Floriculture, Parks & Gardens Jammu organized a tree plantation drive in Bagh-e-Bhour Garden Jammu to celebrate World's Environment Day. The drive was initiated under the guidance of S. Jatinder Singh, Director General, Floriculture, Parks & Gardens Jammu in presence of Floriculture Officer Jammu Sunil Singh, Floriculture Officer (HQ), Ishfaq Ahmad Malik, Assistant Floriculture Officers and other officials and visitors.

The Director General Floriculture, Parks & Gardens urged the young generation and civil society to protect the mother earth by planting more and more trees as well as replace the single use plastic with biodegradable material so that mother earth be saved and remain sustainable.

Students and Teachers of Government School Digtana joined the initiative to eliminate single use plastic and other plastic items in Bagh-e-Bahu Garden- the main tourist attraction in Jammu city. Various such plantation drives were also carried out in different parks and gardens in different Districts of Jammu Division by the Department.

At Doda To promote Swachhta Abhiyan and mark the celebration of the World Environment Day-2023, Deputy Commissioner Doda Vishesh Mahajan led a cleanliness drive in Block Development Office Ghat in presence of BDC Chairperson Ghat, Shariefa Begum, ADC, Phulail Singh, ACP, Ashfaq Khanji and BDO Anoop Kumar Sharma and others.

The DC kick-started Door to Door collection of waste and IEC activities in consonance with the District Swachhta Plan approved for the current year. A special purpose vehicle, "Swachhta Express" was flagged off from the BDO office, which shall traverse across the district and disseminate awareness, pamphlets, and other IEC material. A Swachhta Rally of the students of Government Higher Secondary School Ghat was also flagged off to imbibe a sense of responsibility among locals towards cleanliness and protection of environment. Diverse IEC activities have been planned to be carried out in the district to achieve the status of ODF Plus. A plantation drive was also launched in the district on the eve of World Environment Day 2023 along with Pledge by the audience to protect and conserve the environment. Dustbins were distributed during the programme among the locals of Ghat village.

At Rajouri The Department of Social Forestry, in conjunction with the Pollution Control Board and Government Medical College (GMC) Rajouri,

joined hands to celebrate World Environment Day through a series of diverse activities.

Deputy Commissioner, Vikas Kundal was the chief guest. Principal GMC, Dr A S Bhatia, MS GMC & AH, Dr Mehmood Hussain Bajar, DO PCB, Anupum Koul also attended the event. A remarkable display of paintings created by students, reflecting the theme of World Environment Day was also inaugurated. Later a seminar was held in the GMC, where Deputy Commissioner Rajouri addressed the audience. He highlighted the significance of World Environment Day and emphasized the need for collective action to protect and restore the environment.

The event brought together students, faculty members, government officials, and citizens to share a common goal of preserving the natural resources. Through discussions, and educational initiatives, the participants were encouraged to recognize the importance of ecosystem restoration, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable living.

A pledge was administered to all participants, emphasising their commitment to environmental conservation.

A ceremonial tree plantation drive was also conducted as part of the event. Numerous saplings were planted, symbolising the participants' commitment to nurture and protect nature. The initiative aimed to enhance the green cover of Rajouri and create a sustainable environment for future generations.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner, Vikas Kundal flagged off a walkathon to commemorate World Environment Day and promote Mission LIFE (Living in Harmony with Environment) campaign. The Department of Forest and Forest Protection Force, in collaboration with various stakeholders had organized the event.

The walkathon commenced from the District Forest Office and witnessed an overwhelming participation of students, government officials, environmentalists and civil society members.

Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Imran Kataria, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) S. Maurya, and Divisional Forest Pollution Control Board (PCB) Anupum Koul were also present.

Municipal Council Rajouri organized in the RRR Centre, Bella Colony, Bella Bus Stand area of the city to commemorate World Environment Day. The President MC appealed to the public to prioritize cleanliness and informed them about the waste segregation initiatives and waste processing equipment installed at the MRF Centre in Bella Colony.

Residents of Rajouri Town actively participated in a variety of activities. Over 700 residents, including Municipal Councilors, sanitation workers, individuals from NGOs, and school children attended the event. The event showcased the features of the RRR Centre, waste processing equipment, and featured painting and Nukad Natak performances by children, focusing on environmental themes. Staff from the Social Forestry Department

Rajouri planted saplings of Oaks and other shrubs in the RRR Centre premises and its surroundings. Later, special cleanliness drives were conducted by the sanitation wing of the Municipal Council Rajouri in various parts of Rajouri Town, ensuring a cleaner and healthier environment for the community.

At Ramban Municipal Council (MC) Ramban, in collaboration with the departments of Forest, Social Forestry and Pollution Control today celebrated World Environment Day, 2023 here in the Government Higher Secondary School.

Deputy Commissioner Mussara Islam was the chief guest, while President, MC, Sunita Sumbria was the guest of honour. EO, MC Sudeshan Kumar besides district officers also attended the programme.

The students spoke on the topic of world environment day and the importance of healthy environment and made eye-catching models referring to ecosystem degradation and real time solutions to some of the challenges faced by the world.

A swachhta pledge was also taken by the officers, officials, teachers besides a large number of students.

Meanwhile, the Forest Department organised plantation drives and awareness programmes at different locations across the district.

Divisional Forest Pollution control Sanjay Rathore also organized an awareness programme on World Environment Day at Government Degree College, Ramban.

At Reasi

World Environment Day was celebrated with full verve across Reasi district by organising a series of activities. The main function was held at sports stadium Reasi where a plantation drive was conducted and all district officers planted saplings.

Meanwhile, the Department of Youth Service and Sports Reasi start cleanliness drive at Sula Park. The Municipal Committee Reasi, District social welfare department, Employment department also conducted cleanliness drives in different areas. The Horticulture department also conducted a cleanliness drive at Bagha to Karua road.

DLSA Samba Under the aegis of JKLSA and as per the Action plan for the month of June, 2023 issued by Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority (JKLSA) District Legal Services Authority, Samba organized an awareness programme in Government Degree College Samba to mark "World Environment Day" on the theme "Solutions to Plastic Pollution" and under the Campaign #BeatPlasticPollution.

The event was held under the radiant guidance of Yesh Paul Kotwal, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Samba (Pr. Distt. & Sessions) Judge Samba and Rekha Kapoor Nischal, Secretary, DLSA.

Pardeep Kour, Lecturer, Environmental Science, Govt. Hr. Sec. School Jakh was the resource person who highlighted the impor-

tance of the day and how it encourages people to live more sustainably by reducing waste, conserving energy, implementing eco-friendly practices, and supporting environmental causes. The proceedings of the program were conducted by Hitesh Sharma, Panel Advocate, District Legal Services Authority Samba and vote of thanks was conveyed by Thrinkle Suri, Principal Government Degree College Samba.

A "Pledge Taking Ceremony" on Environment Day under the aegis of 'Mission Life' was also held.

KVK Samba Krishna Vigyan Kendra, Samba organized a series of activities to mark "World Environment Day" under Mission LIFE at KVK Samba and panchayats Samlah and Balore.

Dr. Sanjay Khajuria, Chief Scientist & Head, KVK Samba inaugurated the programme at KVK Samba, where more than 100 farmers of different blocks of district Samba participated in the programme.

A series of plantation drives were also conducted at the premises of the KVK, followed by mega plantation drives at Panchayats Samlah and Balore. More than 500 tree saplings were also distributed during these programmes and all the farmers took a pledge to safeguard the environment and also to plant trees.

A series of lectures on the theme of environment day were also conducted by the experts of the KVK.

SMVDU Katra

The World Environment Day was celebrated at Sri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) Katra, in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC).

Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, Prof. R.K. Sinha along with Sat Paul Pakhra, Regional Director JKPC, Nagendra Singh Jamwal, Registrar SMVDU, Neeraj Gupta, Finance Officer and Dr. Ratna Chandra, Head, School of Biotechnology SMVDU planted saplings in the scenic and beautiful campus of Sri Mata Vaishno Devi University. The participants undertook a pledge to preserve and protect the environment.

A collage competition on theme "Mission Life" was held in the foyer of Auditorium where students showcased their artwork depicting the deplorable condition of our environment due to various human activities. The event ended with a skit by students on "Mission LIFE". About 500 students, staff and faculty along with Deans and Heads of Schools and Section Heads of various departments also attended the event. Dr. Sharda presented the vote of thanks.

SFD Udhampur Taking the initiative of "Mission LIFE Campaign" forward, Social Forestry Division Udhampur, in collaboration with 187 Bn CRPF, today celebrated "World Environment Day" at CRPF Campus, Battal Ballian.

The event was marked with planting of about 50 saplings in the Campus followed by a LIFE pledge undertaken by all the participants

to bring about necessary changes in our lifestyle at individual and community level for environmental protection and conservation.

The main focus of the events was to generate environmental awareness through ceremonial plantation drives, debate/painting competition and Plastic free cum cleanliness drive to meet the theme of current year's World Environment Day i.e. "Solution to plastic pollution" under the campaign #BeatPlasticPollution.

Govt Polytechnic College Jammu Government Polytechnic College Jammu in collaboration with Sports Wing organized a Plantation Drive in the college premises as per guidelines issued by Mission Meri LIFE (Deptt of Higher Education, Ministry of Education).

The objective was to initiate a massive plantation drive. Various saplings were planted on the campus and all the staff and students unanimously stressed for conservation of College surroundings as green spots. The event was held under the guidance of Principal, Er. Arun Bangotra and under the supervision of Dheeraj Kumar NSS Co-ordinator GDC Ramgarh.

Meanwhile, Government Degree College, Ramgarh, organized a "Pledge Taking Ceremony" on Environment Day under the aegis of 'Mission Life' and as a part of series of activities organized by NSS Unit 'Prabha' and Eco Club of the College in collaboration with G20 Cell. The event was organized under the supervision and leadership of Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra, Principal of the College.

GDC Ukhral

NSS Unit of Govt Degree College Ukhral organized a series of events to observe the "World Environmental Day". The campaign of World Environmental Day focused on the climate action, nature action and pollution action while encouraging students to safeguard the richness and resources of the environment.

The students participated in the Slogan-Poster Making and Essay writing competition on this year's theme. The students highlighted the need to protect the environment and the focus on living sustainably and in harmony so as to protect and restore our planet.

GCW Gandhinagar

To celebrate the World Environment Day, the Harshaali Eco-club of Padma Sri Padma Sachdev Government College for Women Gandhinagar organised "Wonders out of Waste" activity to raise awareness about the pressing issue of plastic pollution and promote the concept of creating remarkable creations from waste materials. In presence of the College Principal, Prof. Minu Mahajan, the event witnessed insightful discussions about World Environment Day, the menace of plastic pollution, and the immense potential of repurposing waste.

The centre of attraction was the exhibition of awe-inspiring models crafted solely from waste materials. A total of twenty-two talented students presented their innovative creations, highlighting the transformative power of repurposing waste.

TOURISM DEPARTMENT CELEBRATES WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Dir Tourism launches plantation, sanitation drives at Pahalgam

JI NEWS SERVICE

PAHALGAM, JUNE 5: Director Tourism Kashmir, Raja Yaqoob Farooq today launched a series of activities to commemorate World Environment Day at the renowned tourist destination of Pahalgam.

On the occasion, Director Tourism Kashmir initiated a tree plantation drive, wherein numerous saplings were planted at various locations within the tourist resort. This symbolic gesture symbolizes the dedication of the department towards the preservation of Nature and sustainable tourism.

Furthermore, a comprehensive sanitation drive



was undertaken in and around the Pahalgam vicinity, emphasizing the importance of maintaining cleanliness and hygiene within the region. Director Tourism Kashmir supervised the efforts, ensuring a cleaner and healthier environment for locals and visitors alike. In conjunction

with these activities, a productive meeting was held with various stakeholders. During the meeting, Director Tourism Kashmir emphasized the critical role of environmental conservation in sustaining all forms of life on Earth. He encouraged the stakeholders to prioritize and actively contribute to preserving the environment for future generations. He added that as a responsible tourism authority, the Department of Tourism Kashmir continuously endeavors to create awareness about the significance of environmental preservation and encourages both locals and tourists to engage in eco-friendly practices. Meanwhile, various activities were organized across Kashmir to mark this occasion. These initiatives encompassed a wide range of measures aimed at promoting environmental awareness, cleanliness, and the overall well-being of the region. Among the highlights was the Gulmarg Cycle Rally, a

collective endeavor to raise awareness about sustainable transportation and reduce carbon emissions. Participants cycled through the breathtaking landscape, showcasing the tourism industry's commitment to eco-friendly alternatives. To emphasize cleanliness, the department conducted cleanliness drives in prominent locations such as Pahalgam, Gulmarg, Sonamarg, Kokernag, Sinthan Top, Margan Top, and Srinagar. These drives aimed to instill a sense of responsibility and encourage visitors, locals, and tourism service providers to maintain cleanliness and ensure hygienic surroundings. Moreover, various

training programs and workshops were organized to educate and empower service providers, enabling them to offer sustainable tourism experiences aligned with the region's environmental goals.

In addition to cleanliness drives, plantation drives were carried out across the region to enhance the green cover, combat deforestation, and contribute to the ecological balance.

To engage and inspire the youth, essay competitions and open-air classrooms were organized in collaboration with educational institutions, emphasizing the role of education in fostering environmental consciousness.

DLSA Udhampur celebrates World Environment Day

JI NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, JUNE 05: On the eve of World Environment Day, District Legal Services Authority Udhampur under the guidance of the Chairman District Legal Services Authority Udhampur, Haq Nawaz Zargar and the overall Supervision of Secretary District Legal Services Authority, Udhampur, Ajay Kumar celebrated "World Environment Day" in collaboration with District Forest Office, Udhampur at District Court Complex Udhampur.

The programme was started with Special Plantation drive by

Forest Department and District Legal Services Authority Udhampur in presence of Worthy Chairman DLSA Udhampur, Haq Nawaz Zargar, Additional Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Mr. Joginder Singh Jasrotia, Superintendent of Police Udhampur, Dr. Vinod Kumar, Divisional Forest Officer, Udhampur Mr. Rupal Garg, IFS, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Manoj Parihar, District Legal Services Authority Udhampur, Ajay Kumar, Sub-Judge Special Mobile Magistrate Udhampur, Salahuddin Ahmed, Munisif JMJC Udhampur,



Maleeka Sharma, District Udhampur, Vishal Bharti and Judicial Mobile Magistrate President Bar Association

'World Environment Day' celebrated across Anantnag



JI NEWS SERVICE

ANANTNAG, JUNE 05: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, SF Hamid today addressed students from different educational institutions of the district at Sports Stadium Anantnag to mark the 'World Environment Day'.

Earlier, the students presented a memorandum to the DC outlining various suggestions for mitigating the effects of climate change and preserving the environment. Students were seen holding placards with appeals to people to save the environment. They advocated strong reliance on 3Rs to reduce pressure on natural resources, called for all people to come together in addressing environmental issues and called on people to bring about behavioral change to save the environment.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the presentation of the memorandum sends a strong message towards preservation of the environment. He said that the present generation has to take serious steps for conservation of the environment or the future generations will have to pay for their mistakes. He said that awareness among the younger generation regarding the need for conservation of environment and preserving our natural resources is an evidence of the behavioral change being driven through various preservation measures being run by the government.

He appealed to the general public to pledge to save the environment on this World Environment Day because at the theme for this year's environment day suggests, we have only one earth and we must ensure that every effort is made to preserve its fragile ecology. Similar event was held at GHSS Rani Bagh, Sub Division levels and Tehsil levels where the students pledged to save the environment and make every conscious effort towards preserving earth and not to waste resources.

Advisor Bhatnagar inaugurates 10 day Exhibition-cum-Mega sale at Kashmir Haat

DISTRIBUTES LOAN SANCTION ORDERS AMOUNTING RS 1.86 CR AMONG BENEFICIARIES

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 05: Advisor Rai Bhatnagar, today inaugurated 10 day Exhibition-cum-Mega sale of products made by beneficiaries financed by J&K SC, ST and BC Development Corporation at Kashmir Haat, here.

The event is being sponsored by National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC), Union Ministry of Minority Affairs and organised by J&K SC, ST & BC Development Corporation.

Addressing the participants from different parts of J&K, Advisor Bhatnagar said that the main objective of organizing this exhibition is to provide a platform to the beneficiaries of the Corporation to display and sale their products. He added that present administration is giving prime focus on self employment and various schemes have been started in that direction.

Advisor highlighted that under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj



Sinha, the government's aim is to uplift the lowest strata of the society by providing them good governance at their doorsteps. He added that the government is committed to provide marketing platform as well as any kind of help to the beneficiaries associated with J&K SC, ST and BC Development Corporation.

Advisor Bhatnagar called upon the management of the Corporation to increase the targets of providing financial help

to beneficiaries besides a digital platform should be established for loan applications and disbursement.

Advisor appreciated the role of Managing Director and asked the officers of the Corporation to gear up their efforts to make the Corporation an ideal service institution. He asked for creating awareness about the schemes among the targeted group so that the schemes of the Corporation may reach to the

deserving persons at grass root level. He also asked the participant beneficiaries to give wide publicity of the schemes/ programmes of the Corporation in their respective areas.

In her speech, MD, J&K SC, ST & BC Development Corporation, Ulfat Jabeen, gave details about achievements recorded by the Corporation, so far.

She informed that the Corporation is working for socio-economic and educational upliftment of weaker sections of the society, i.e. Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Notified National Minorities, Safai Karamcharis and Persons with Disabilities. She added that the Corporation provides soft loans to the unemployed persons of the target group in collaboration with six National Level Corporations of Government of India including National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) for establishment of income generating units to improve their socio-economic condition.

MD further said that the

Corporation also provides Educational Loan at very low rate of interest to the students of the target group families who are pursuing Technical and Professional Courses in India and abroad. She also informed that the Corporation under its various schemes, so far, has provided loan assistance to the tune of Rs.320.52 crore to 41383 beneficiaries for setting up of income generating units.

It was also informed by the MD that during first two months of current financial year against the target of 1150 cases, Corporation has sanctioned loans in favour of 230 beneficiaries to the tune of Rs. 6.90 crore and the targets set for current financial shall be achieved within stipulated time.

Later, Advisor inspected all the stalls set up by the beneficiaries and interacted with individual beneficiaries who were provided loan assistance by the Corporation. During the event, Advisor Bhatnagar also distributed loan sanction orders among beneficiaries for an amount of Rs.1.86 crore.

DC reviews Jal Jeevan Mission in Udhampur

Asks officers to expedite the pace of work for timely completion

JJ NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, JUNE 05: Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur, Sachin Kumar Vaisya today convened a meeting of officers and field functionaries of Jal Shakti Department to review the latest status of progress of each component of work under Jeevan Mission in the district. At the onset, the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti, Ashok Kumar Sharma briefed the chair about the latest progress and role of different departments for effective implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in the district. He informed that a total of 131 works under JIM scheme have been started in the District out of which 175 works allotted so far.

The DC took Sub Division wise extensive reviews of Jal Jeevan Mission and directed the concerned officers to work with zeal and dedication to achieve the set targets during the current financial year. SDMs were directed to conduct field visits in their respective jurisdiction and monitor the ongoing work and submit the report on daily basis. He further directed the SDMs to ensure holding review meetings and sort out the issues related to implementation of JIM in their respective areas. He also stressed on close monitoring of ongoing works to ensure quality and adherence to timelines. He directed the concerned officers to expedite the pace of work to ensure that the ongoing works are completed well in time to provide necessary and much intended benefits to the general public.

He also cautioned the officers to bring in notice of the concerned SDMs regarding the reasons of delay and the detail of all those contractors who are responsible for the delay. Forest issues were also discussed during the meeting.

Govt refutes news report on road connectivity to Ahadwah village in Ramban

Says two projects underway to provide connectivity to this hilltop village

JJ NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, JUNE 05: The government today strongly refuted a news report published in a daily local newspaper regarding delay in road connectivity to remote Ahadwah Panchayat, in Ramban District.

Describing the contents of the news report published in daily "Greater Kashmir" today as misleading, a government spokesperson stated that attempts are being made to connect Ahadwah panchayat through two national schemes, one under PMSGSY and another under NABARD.

"While directions have been given to complete the last mile coverage of 4.93 km up to Ahadwah via Marog-Balihote under PMSGSY, the survey of Phase II under NABARD is currently underway to provide alternate connectivity through Neera and Batiya panchayats," he added.

Countering the claim made by the news report that the said PMSGSY road was sanctioned in the year 2003-04, the spokesperson informed that the Phase I of the said road was sanctioned in 2005-06 while its Phase II was sanctioned in the year 2017-18.

He said that out of total length of 24.33 km, road up to 19.40 km has already been constructed which also stands backlogged up to 15 km and the remaining portion has been prioritized for completion in this fiscal.

Highlighting the challenges in providing road connectivity in hilly and mountainous terrain in Ramban district, the spokesperson said the Marog-Ahadwah road via Balihote was foreclosed twice in the past due to local hindrances and forest clearance issues.

"Ahadwah panchayat is literally on a mountain top and despite stiff challenges, substantial progress has been achieved," he said assuring to give connectivity to Ahadwah in this financial year.

Conveying an assurance on behalf of the government to connect all unconnected villages, the spokesperson said that more than 1000 souls will be benefitted once the 12 km NABARD road to Ahadwah gets completed, adding that the project amounting Rs. 2.49 crore sanctioned in Phase I shall be completed shortly. Highlighting the challenges in execution of work to connect Ahadwah village, which is at a very steep gradient, the govern-

ment spokesman urged upon the people to cooperate in completion of the survey for Phase II of the project under NABARD.

"Certain people are creating hindrances in the road survey and various deputations have demanded alternate take off points, but directions have been given to ensure that the survey is completed and DPR for Phase II under NABARD framed without any delay," he said.

He added that the PRLs have also been requested to facilitate execution of road project by holding special Gram Sabhas on this account.

The spokesman informed that phase I of road to Ahadwah under NABARD from Neerah, after its take off point from Mehar, was washed away in a landslide. He said that under NABARD scheme, no land compensation has been provided for private land which comes in the alignment of the road. The spokesman also handed out an assurance in expediting infrastructure development works once road connectivity to Ahadwah panchayat is provided as this will facilitate transportation of material and equipment to this hilltop panchayat.

DC B'pora kick starts IDCF campaign at Distt Hospital



JJ NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, JUNE 05: The Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmed on Monday kick-started Intensive Diarrhoea Control Fortnight (IDCF) campaign at District Hospital Bandipora.

He was accompanied by Nodal officer coordination Mohd Ashraf Hakak, CMO Bandipora, Dr. Rafi Ahmad Salathi, MS Bandipora Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad and other concerned.

Speaking on the occasion the DC said that the IDCF campaign is initiated by the Government of India to raise awareness about diarrhoea prevention and control.

He said the campaign aims to

reduce the prevalence of diarrhoea among children under the age of five by promoting key interventions such as oral rehydration therapy (ORT), zinc supplementation, clean water, improved sanitation, and proper hygiene practices.

Dr. Owais highlighted various approaches for childhood diarrhoea control including protect approach, prevent approach and treatment approach.

Signifying the importance of prevention and mitigation methods, Dr. Owais stressed on awareness campaigns to achieve the goal of IDCF to attain zero child deaths due to childhood diarrhoea. Dr. Owais on the occasion stressed on effective implementation of the Intensified Diarrhoea Control

Day marked awareness rallies, sanitation drives, plantation drives & pledge ceremonies

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KULGAM, JUNE 05: To raise awareness about ecology and environment among the masses, various functions were held across Kulgam on the eve of "World Environment Day-2023".

The main function was held at Govt Girls' Higher Secondary School Yaripora which was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat.

Speaking on the occasion the DC highlighted the measures taken to make Kulgam beautiful and clean. He said that every small action counts in creating a greener future and let us stand up against plastic and Beat Plastic Pollution which is also the theme of this year's World Environment Day.

He urged the student community and youth to play their role in disseminating the message of environment protection, adding that the children are the future of the nation which have greater responsibilities to shoulder ahead.

ACR Mir Intiyaz-ul-Aziz, CEO, Mushtaq Qadri, Tehsildar and other officers were also present in the function.



Meanwhile to celebrate the day, Tourism Department Kulgam in collaboration with Aharbal Development Authority and Rural Development Department also organised a function at Aharbal.

The event witnessed participation of students from various schools besides PRLs and locals.

On the occasion, a rally was taken out by school children, staff and other participants to spread environment day messages to the general public. The rally passed through Aharbal market and culminated near Aharbal Waterfall.

A plantation drive was also organised wherein plant sapling were planted to encourage and motivate others to take part in plantation activities.

Meanwhile, the speakers from

schools, officers from various departments highlighted the historical background of the day and added that collectively we have to work to preserve and safeguard the environment from more depletion.

Speaking on the occasion, CEO ADA Ghalib Mohi-Ud-Din Shah asked all to join hands on this World Environment Day to better place for generations to come.

The AD Tourism emphasized the need for developing sensitivity towards protection of the environment and surroundings.

She said multi-dimensional climatic threats have come into existence which needs to be addressed for our healthy survival. She also highlighted the initiatives taken to boost tourism in the district.

Doda district all set to take great leap forward in tapping ecotourism potential

DC inaugurates Tent village; hiking, camping & adventure site in Bhaderwah

JJ NEWS SERVICE

BHADERWAH, JUNE 5: District Doda is all set to take a great leap forward in realizing the abundant potential of eco and adventure tourism.

Considered as a lucrative source of employment and income generation, the district administration is embarking on a majestic plan to explore and push ecotourism activities for socioeconomic development of the local communities. In a step forward in this direction, A Jungle World, Tent Village; Hiking, Camping & Adventure site has been established in the picturesque Chinta valley- half way along the Bhaderwah to Jai Valley road. The site was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan in presence of ADC Bhaderwah, Chowdhary Dil Mir; CPO, Suresh Kumar; ACD, Phulal Singh, other officers and guests.

While interacting with the local media, the DC informed that the district administration is looking for young entrepreneurs who are interested to pitch in for creating a world-class tourism infrastructure to attract tourists from across the world.

"The Nature has bestowed the region with the best of its beauty, and the need is to protect, conserve, and showcase nature at its best to the world. The administration is ready for every kind of support to young entrepreneurs promoting tourism for livelihood," he added.

Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight launched in Doda

JJ NEWS SERVICE

DODA, JUNE 05: Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Ab Hamid Zargar today launched the Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight (IDCF-2023) here in a programme held at ANMI School and organized by District Health Society Doda. Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight will continue till 17th June 2023. The programme was attended by the students of ANMI, Principal ANMI Doda besides health staff of the department.

The CMO delivered the keynote address at the orientation programme and said that childhood diarrhoea is among the major killers of 0-5 years old children in India and most of the victims are children from poor socio economic families.

He said that the ultimate aim of Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight 2023 is to achieve zero child deaths due to childhood diarrhoea. He also explained about various activities to be performed during the IDCF establishment of ORS Zinc Comer in all health facilities. Medical Officer, Dr. Javed Ahmed Parray, as the Resource Person thoroughly explained about the cause of diarrhoea among the children. He also explained about the precautionary measures and interventions and preparation of ORS at home and its uses. Similar activities were held in all Medical Blocks as a part of observing IDCF, where the activities during the programme included hand washing demonstration in schools, outreach areas and distribution of ORS and Zinc Tablets.

Nasha Mukti Abhiyan: Pledge ceremonies held in all Panchayat Halqas of Srinagar

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 05: On the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad pledge ceremonies were held in all Panchayat Halqas of Srinagar District during Gram Gram Sabhas as part of the Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan.

The aim of the pledge ceremonies was to strengthen action and cooperation in achieving the goal of a sustainable substance abuse free Srinagar.

The pledge was administered during Gram Sabhas held in all Panchayat Halqas of Harwar, Khonmoh, Srinagar and Qamarwar Blocks of the District.

On the occasion, all the participants vowed to stay away from drugs and to make efforts to make Srinagar a drug free District. Besides, members of DDC, BDC and other PRLs, the programmes were participated by general masses in large numbers.

Speakers on the occasion said that drug addiction is an issue of grave concern, especially among the younger generation and has detrimental impact not only on the individual concerned but on the society as a whole. During the programmes, people were also sensitized about environmental issues and role of Public in its preservation and protection.

DDC Udhampur reviews progress of work on Devika project

JJ NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, JUNE 05: In order to review the pace of ongoing work of Devika Project, a meeting of officers of UEED and PMC was convened by District Development Commissioner, Udhampur, Sachin Kumar Vaisya today in his office chamber and progress of all 3 zones covering STP's/IPS's, sewerage network, Machine holes, IC chamber was reviewed.

During the meeting, Executive Engineer UEED apprised District Development Commissioner about the latest zone wise progress of sewerage network and other components of the project and further apprised that STP 2&3 along with its IPS's stand commissioned. He added that all the major sewer lines have been laid and Household connections of zone 2 are being completed while as Household connections of zone 3 are in progress and shall be completed within next 10 days.

Executing agencies were directed by the DDC to gear up men and machinery and adhere to the timelines of ongoing works and complete within time bound manner. Executive Engineer UEED was directed to complete the ongoing work of Sewerage network, Machine holes and IC chambers of Zone-1 as per the given timeline and should be completed by ending July 2023. Executive Engineer UEED was asked to ensure demonstration of all three zones and will be presented by UEED in the next meeting.

DM's Library (Jayshree) receives overwhelming response

RAJOURI, JUNE 05: The newly inaugurated DM's Library (Jayshree) in the District Information Office has witnessed an exceptional response from the students...

cially handed over the functioning and management of the library to the Information Department, emphasising the importance of providing accessible and quality reading material to the community.

The overwhelming response received by DM's Library (Jayshree) reflects the collective thirst for knowledge and the community's desire to engage in intellectual pursuits.

DC Pulwama chairs Task Force meeting for MR Elimination

PULWAMA, JUNE 05: In order to further pace up the progress towards Measles & Rubella (MR) Elimination in the district, a meeting of District Task Force (DTF) on MR Elimination was today held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr Basharat Qayoom at Conference Hall of DC Office Complex, here.

During the meeting, threadbare deliberations were held with regard to implementation of a road map formulated by the Government for Measles, Rubella Elimination from the Country by 2023. An Action Plan for achieving strategic objectives for Measles & Rubella Elimination also came under discussion. On the occasion, the DC

of acquiring complete knowledge about the preventive measures of Measles-Rubella disease, and asked the officers to identify the target groups, conduct surveys and go ahead with concrete plans to achieve the results as set by the Government.

DLSA Bandipora observes 'World Environment Day'

BANDIPORA, JUNE 05: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bandipora in collaboration with School Education Department Bandipora today organized an awareness programme to commemorate 'World Environment Day' with the theme 'Beat Plastic Pollution' at Govt. Hr. Sec. School Aloosa, Bandipora.

SKUAST-K, KVK Budgam celebrate 'World Environment Day'

BUDGAM, JUNE 05: SKUAST-K in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Budgam today celebrated 'World Environment Day' on the theme 'Solutions to Plastic Pollution' at KVK premises, here.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, REW POONCH TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No 15 of REW POONCH 2023-24 Dated:- 02-06-2023 1st call For & on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, the Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch, as his representative invites tenders by e-tendering mode from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Union Territory Govt./CPWD/MES for the following work under:

Table with 10 columns: S. No, Name of Work, Name of Division, Est. Cost (Rs in lacs), Cost of document (in Rs), Earnest Money (in Rs), Time Allowed for completion, Time and date of opening of tender, Class of Contractor, Position of Funds. Contains 29 entries for various construction works.

Table with 10 columns: S. No, Name of Work, Name of Division, Est. Cost (Rs in lacs), Cost of document (in Rs), Earnest Money (in Rs), Time Allowed for completion, Time and date of opening of tender, Class of Contractor, Position of Funds. Contains 21 entries for various construction works.

- NOTE: The Contractors registered with DDC, Poonch in reference to GOVT. Order No: 238-F of 2021, Dated 07-09-2021 can participate upto an amount of Rs. 3.00 Lacs. in local Panchayat works. 1. After opening of the tender if the rates quoted by the lowest bidder are found to be high & value of work is more than the advertised cost, he/she is advised to negotiate his/her quoted rates with the department / offer his/her consent within five days after opening of the tenders, failing which the work shall be put to fresh tender.

Table with 2 columns: Item, Date/Time. Contains tendering process details like Date of Issue of Tender Notice, Period of downloading of bidding documents, Bid submission Start Date, Bid Submission End Date, Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online) (in case of holder), Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online) (if only successful technical bidders).

- 1. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids. 2. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if: a) Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/required during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid. b) Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period. c) In case contractor fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after action of contract. 3. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process. 4. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the 'Downloads' option as well as from 'Bidders Manual KIP' on website https://www.jktenders.gov.in/ to acquaint bid submission process.

No: XEN/REW/P/149-176 Dated:- 02-06-2023 DIP/J-2736/23 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING WING POONCH

G-20 EVENTS: Women critical partners in growth, development of Jammu & Kashmir: Advisor Bhatnagar

INAUGURATES 2 DAY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON "GENDER SENSITISATION, RIGHTS, POLICIES AND ISSUES" AT GCW SRINAGAR

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 05: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, today inaugurated two day international conference on "Gender Sensitisation, Rights, Policies and Issues" at Government College for Women, M A Road here.

The conference, organised by Cluster University Srinagar (CUS), was aimed at to foster meaningful discussions and collaboration on critical topics pertaining to gender equality and empowerment.

Vice Chancellor, CUS, Professor Qayyum Hussain, Director SKIMS, Dr. Farvez Kaul, Principal GCW, Srinagar, Professor Rishi Jan Kanth, Dean Students Welfare, CUS, Deans of



different schools, Professors, scholars and large number of students were present on the occasion. Advisor Bhatnagar, while addressing on the occasion, said that this International Conference is part of ongoing G-20 events being held across the country. He mentioned about recent conduct of successful G-20 Tourism Working Group meet in Srinagar which gave the message to the world regarding hope, harmony, peace and stability prevailing in J&K. He added that with success of ongoing G-20 events in the country, India is marching forward and claiming

its place in global order.

Advisor also remarked that with successful culmination of G-20 event in Srinagar, the tourism sector of J&K has got tremendous boost.

Speaking to gathering of scholars, students and eminent personalities on different aspects of this International Conference, Advisor Bhatnagar said that gender equality forms core of SDGs of UN. "There has been a sea change in approach of things towards gender sensitisation in our country", he added. He said that without women empowerment, country cannot progress

and therefore several programmes and schemes like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, UJJWALA, Nari Shakti Pararak, others have been started by Union Government in this regard.

Advisor further said that women empowerment forms core part of "Amrit Kaal" and the present government has made significant progress in gender equality as well as gender index rankings.

While speaking on gender responsive development policies of Jammu and Kashmir, Advisor Bhatnagar maintained that under the inspirational vision of

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, women are being treated as critical partners in ongoing growth, development and peace process in Jammu and Kashmir. He added that more than 6000 successful women entrepreneurs

have been provided financial help by the J&K government besides 60,000 SHGs have been established in nook and corner of J&K with the help Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission. Commending the CUS for organising this conference, Advisor Bhatnagar said that the event will provide a platform for knowledge exchange, exploring innovative strategies and formulating effective policies to address the challenges faced by women and gender minorities.

In his address, VC, CUS, spoke in length about different aspects of this conference and emphasized the significance of gender sensitization and the importance of upholding women's rights in building an equitable society. He also gave a brief outline about the functioning of CUS.

Historic 3-day Sudh Mahadev Mela concludes



JI NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, JUNE 05: More than 50,000 devotees, visitors including men, women and children of all faiths thronged 3-day Historic Sudh Mahadev Mela in Sub Division Chenani of district Udhampur which concluded today with traditional fervor and gaiety.

During the three days of the mela, the devotees paid obeisance at the abode of Lord Shiva in the Sudh Mahadev temple after taking bath in the spring (Pap Nashi Bowli) situated just at the entrance of the temple, having the power of cleaning all human evils.

During the Mela, the folk artists and students of educational institutions of the area presented folk songs and dances, highlighting various aspects of local culture with special reference to Lord Shiva.

A number of temporary sweet shops, toy shops and other eateries set up by the locals and outside vendors were the main attraction for the general public visiting the Mela.

Mela Officer, Tehsildar Chenani Ved Parkash camped at the Mela site during the three days to manage arrangements for the comfortable pilgrimage.

The district administration of Udhampur had made elaborate arrangements of security, drinking water and power supply, medicare, traffic regulation, additional bus services and stocks of commodities during the mela days.

Agar Jitto mela concludes, thousands pay obeisance at revered Shrine

JI NEWS SERVICE

REASI, JUNE 05: Annual Baba Jitto Agar Mela, which commenced on June 3, concluded today amid Vedic rituals and chanting of mantras by a group of Pujaris of Baba Jitto shrine at the site.

A small village Agar, located about 5 km from Katra, was beautifully decorated for the big event. Thousands of devotees from within and outside J&K including from Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh thronged the place to pay obeisance to Baba Jitto Mal-a farmer, who had preferred to end his life instead of bearing the injustice at the hands of greedy landlords.

ADC Abdu'l Star was the chief guest on the last day. He lauded the efforts put in by the Aghar Management Committee, locals and district officers for making elaborate arrangements for the successful conduct of Agar Mela.

The devotees took the holy bath at springs known for having a healing power and paid obeisance at the temple constructed in the memory of the saint farmer. It is believed that by taking a bath in the spring, people can get rid of skin diseases.

A Dargal competition organized by the Mela Management Committee witnessing the participation of professional wrestlers hailing from Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and several parts of Jammu and Kashmir, was one of the major attractions on the concluding day.

On the second day of the Mela, a Culture programme was also organised by the Department of Information and Public Relation in which many cultural troupes performed.

Awareness camps and exhibition stalls put up by the Government departments including Department of Agriculture, Horticulture, Sericulture, Floriculture, Handicrafts, Health department, tourism and various other departments showcased their schemes and programmes.

The locals and the Mela committee appreciated the DDC Reasi Babla Rakwal for adding new events to the Mela that helped attract a large number of people.

Power shutdown

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 05: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCI, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Yatri Niwas, Bhawani Nagar, Gole Gujjar, Talab Tillo, Trilokpur, Panipure, Nitco Lane, Vikas Nagar, Sari Rakhal, Pounchak, Flaura, M/C Domana, Machallian and adjoining areas shall remain affected on June 08 from 6 am to 10 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Lamberi, Bagnoti, Narian, Chwki-Jangher, Qila, Darhal, Lam, Iaroka, Dabbar, Dharat, Gagrote, Newsheera town, Shahzadpur, Marh, Gajansoo, Karloop, Bag, Dataryal and adjoining areas shall remain affected on June 09 from 6 am to 10 am.

Likewise, the power supply to Batra Hospital, Rawi Tawi Pumping Station, Shahabad Colony, Matador Stand, Bahu Fort, Parts of Sidhra and adjoining areas shall remain affected on June 06 from 8.30 am to 12 noon.

Meanwhile, the Superintending Engineer, O&M Circle, Jammu, JPDCI has informed that the power supply to Patoli Magotrian, Toph Sherkhania, Sushant Vihar and adjoining areas shall remain affected on June 06 and 08 from 6 am to 10 am.

However, the Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCI, O&M Circle, Kathua has informed that the power supply to Lower Tilla, Parohit Mohalla and adjoining areas shall remain affected on June 06 from 7 am to 10 am.

Week long programme on Mission LIFE conducted by NSS GCW Parade, Jammu Concluded today

JI NEWS SERVICE

Jammu 5 June-The NSS Units of GCW Parade Ground, Jammu in collaboration with Eco Club, Science Club and Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan Jammu organised a week long awareness programme on Mission LIFE from 30th May 2023 which culminated today on 5th June on World Environment Day on Mission LIFE under the supervision of principal of the College Dr. S. P. Sarswat and under the guidance of NSS Programme Officers of the College Dr. Gurpreet Kour and Dr. Mohd. Majeed and Prof. Parvaiz Ahmad.

In the inaugural session, Principal of the college briefed



the students about the relevance of celebrating Environment Day and the need to address the plastic pollution.

Around 150 participants including NSS Volunteers, student members of Eco Club and Science Club participated in the programme. As a part of Week long program, National

youth parliament proposed by Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Govt of India was organised on 30th May on the topic, "Climate change and Disaster Risk Reduction: A Way to Sustainability" where Mr. Anil Masoom, corporator was the Chief Guest.

A Quiz contest was organised

on the topic Beat Plastic Pollution on 2nd June wherein 16 students of the college participated.

A programme on awareness on Mission LIFE was organised on 3rd June where Dr Arun Gupta and Dr Latika Bhatti, Medical Officers from AYUSH, Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir were the resource persons. The resource persons talked about the importance of Millets in meeting the nutritional content of the body and the various yoga asans for a healthy lifestyle. The participants also took pledge on Mission LIFE read by Ms. Latika Bhatti.

The week long program culminated today with an awareness lecture on Beat Plastic Pollution

by Mr Randeep Manhas, Senior Scientist and Incharge Plastic Waste Management, Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee, Jammu and Kashmir. He talked at length about the ways and means to address the plastic pollution. After the lecture, cloth bags were distributed to the staff and students as a substitute to polythene bags.

Later RJ Juhri from 92.7 visited the college with her team and distributed steel bottles among students as a substitute to plastic bottles. The proceedings of the programme were carried out by Dr Harmanmeet Kour and the programme ended with formal Vote of Thanks by Prof. Neha Gupta

Basohli being developed as hub for water sports, sustainable tourism: Secretary

JI NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA, JUNE 5: Series of cultural festivities and other events today marked commemoration of "World Environment Day by the Directorate of Tourism Jammu and Bani Basohli Development Authority at the Tourist Reception Centre, Basohli.

Pertinently, the Department of Tourism under the leadership of Secretary Tourism, Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, is committed in its endeavour to promote Off Beat Tourist destinations and adventure tourism. "Basohli, being an Off Beat Tourist destination and major water sports destination for the Jammu region, is being promoted for adventure tourism along with leisure and heritage tourism by the Tourism Department".

The day long celebrations began with an "Eco-Tourism Awareness Rally" by the local school children



under the theme of "Beat Plastic Pollution" which is the official campaign theme of "World Environment Day 2023" and is being globally celebrated with the hashtag #BeatPlasticPollution. The rally was flagged off from Atal Setu Bridge which culminated at TRC Basohli. The festivities were formally inaugurated by Secretary Tourism, Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah with launch of a plantation drive. District Development Council Chairman, Kathua, Colonel Mahan Singh, besides Director Tourism Jammu, Vivekanand Rai, Special

Secretary, Tourism Department, Amarjeet Singh, Joint Director Planning, Tourism, Yasir Balwan, Chief Executive Officer, Bani Basohli Development Authority, Desh Raj Bhagat and Joint Director Tourism, Jammu, Sunaina Sharma besides other officers of Tourism Department and district administration were present on the occasion.

The dignitaries also visited the departmental stalls and interacted with the artisans of local Handloom and Handicraft products which were displayed at the venue under the theme

"Humari Kala Humari Pehchan". Besides, Live Basohli Painting exhibition was also organized on the occasion which received huge appreciation from the visiting dignitaries. Also, the Department of Handloom, J&K had put on a live display of traditional charkha.

While speaking on the occasion, Secretary said that the Department of Tourism is committed towards promoting Basohli as a major tourist destination of J&K. The department shall make all endeavours to bring it to the global tourist map with modern day state-of-the-art facilities and infrastructure, he added. He said that all critical gaps that need to be worked upon, shall be addressed by the Tourism Department, especially under the aegis of "Swadesh Darshan" and other similar schemes of the Union Tourism Ministry.

RBI Jammu promotes Mission 'LIFE' in Jammu



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 5: Flagging off a 'Green Walk cum Cleanliness' drive by Reserve Bank of India, Jammu Regional Office, marked observance of World Environment Day here the other day.

With active participation of RBI staff members, the rally was flagged off from its office premises at Rail Head Complex, Jammu.

In line with the national level emphasis on promoting Mission 'LIFE' (Lifestyle for Environment), three teams of RBI staff members ('Green Warriors') cleaned the vicinity of the RBI Office including Bahu Plaza, Trikuta Nagar and carried the message of Mission 'LIFE' to Beat Plastic Pollution with strong determination.

While flagging off the 'Green Walk', Kamal P Patnaik, Regional Director RBI, J&K, emphasized the need to inculcate environmentally friendly habits in everyday life to promote Mission 'LIFE'. He administered the Mission 'LIFE' pledge to all staff members and set a target of transforming RBI premises into a 'Single-Use Plastic-Free Zone'. He also called for collaboration between RBI and the Jammu Municipal Corporation to ensure scientific and eco-friendly disposal of plastic waste.

National Kun Bokator Championship commences in Srinagar

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 05: Twin events of Cricket and District Lawn Tennis were held in Samba district. The events were held under the flagship programme of My Youth My Pride.

Secretary YSS Sarmad Hafeez while referring to the events held in Samba said that it is great to see such efforts being made to promote sports in

Jammu and Kashmir. The Jammu District Lawn Tennis Championship and the cricket match at Samba Stadium are excellent examples of how we can encourage young people to take an active interest in sports. I commend the organisers and participants for their hard work and dedication, he added.

Secretary Sports Council in her message said that sports not only help individuals stay physically fit but also contribute to

their overall well-being. More such initiatives are in the pipeline, she added. Meanwhile the sports events in the discipline of Tug of war, Rope skipping, Kabaddi, and Carrom were held in Chinani. The events were held in the Govt Higher Secondary School Chenani.

Meanwhile, the National Kun Bokator Championship began in Indoor Sports Hall Polo ground in Srinagar today. The championship is being organised by the

Kun Bokator Federation of India and will be held for two days.

Around 12 states from across the country are participating in the championship with a total of 200 participants.

In addition, two coaches from Cambodia will also be present to share their expertise and knowledge of the sport with the participants.

Prior to the championship, there was a four-day national level Kun Bokator Seminar for

coaches and referees from 1st to 4th June 2023. The seminar was aimed at enhancing the skills of the coaches and referees and ensuring that the championship is conducted smoothly.

"The National Kun Bokator Championship 2023-24 promises to be an exciting event for all Kun Bokator enthusiasts in India and is expected to raise the profile of the sport in the country," said Sports Officer Kashmir Nuzhat Farooq.