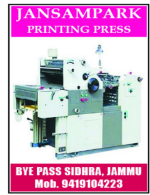




JINDRAH IMAGES



DAILY | JAMMU | VOL. NO: 10 | ISSUE NO: 130 | PAGES: 12 | PRICE: Rs 2/- | RNI NO: JKENG/2013/49471 | POSTAL REGD. NO. JK-497/22-24 | dailyjindrahimages.com/Epaper.php | jindrahimages123@gmail.com

Modi govt disbursed 27 Crore mudra loans to women: Amit Shah

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUN 6

The Narendra Modi government has disbursed 27 crore Mudra loans to women entrepreneurs who have empowered the Indian economy with their "womanly force", Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Tuesday.

The Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) is a scheme launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 8, 2015, to provide loans up to Rs 10 lakh to non-corporate, non-farm small and micro enterprises.

In a series of tweets, Shah said the celebration of womanhood is not

a mere slogan for Prime Minister Modi and in the nine years of women-led development, it is now a reality where women have shattered the glass ceiling in all walks of life from space to start-ups and defence to domestic affairs, leading the nation to new heights.

"Transforming the



tenet of progress PM @narendramodi Ji has unfolded an era of 99 years of Women-led Development for the world to marvel at. India registered a record of disbursing 27 Cr. Mudra loans to women entrepreneurs who today empower the Indian economy with their womanly force," he said.

The loans are classified as MUDRA loans under PMMY. These loans are given by commercial banks, regional rural banks, small finance banks, microfinance institutions and non-banking financial institutions.

The borrower can approach any of these lending institutions or

apply online through the portal www.wdayamimtra.in.

Under the aegis of PMMY, MUDRA has created three products namely 'Shishu', 'Kishore' and 'Tarun' to signify the stage of growth, development and funding needs of the beneficiary micro

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Construction work on Yatri Niwas and Disaster Management Center under ONGC's CSR initiative commences at Jammu

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 6

Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Housing and Urban Affairs and Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha performed puja for the commencement of Construction work for Yatri Niwas and Disaster Management Center, today.

The facility is being developed at Majeen Jammu under the CSR initiative of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) at a cost of Rs 51 crores.

Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister said the Yatri Niwas will help in providing accommodation for 30,000 Shri Amarnathji pilgrims every year and will be particularly helpful for yatis from



weaker sections. It will help in traffic management and ensure a seamless experience, he added.

The Lt Governor Manoj Sinha congratulated the devotees of Shri Amarnath Ji officials of the Shrine Board, all stakeholders and organizations associated with Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra and the people

of Jammu region for the commencement of the construction work of the Yatri Niwas.

"I am immensely grateful to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji and Hon'ble Union Minister Shri Hardeep Singh Puri Ji for Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board's Yatri Niwas at Jammu. This new facility

will ease the lives of devotees embarking on annual pilgrimage of Baba Amarnath," said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor expressed gratitude to the Union Petroleum Minister for approving 4-5 more Yatri Niwas under CSR initiatives for Baba Shri

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

LG inaugurates SMVDSB's Prasad cum Souvenir Counter in departure area of Jammu Airport

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 6

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha inaugurated Prasad cum Souvenir Counter of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board in the departure area of Jammu Airport, today.

The facility will fulfill the long pending demand of the devotees of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi ji from across the country to make packaged Prasad and other Souvenir available at the Jammu Airport, said the Lt Governor.

The LG Governor, the Lt Governor shared initiatives taken by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board for providing better facilities to the pilgrims.



The Shrine Board has also taken several digital initiatives to facilitate the devotees from across the country and abroad, he added. The Lt Governor also distrib-

uted the Prasad packages to the people at the airport.

Premium Panchmewa Prasad, Gold Medallions, Silver Coins

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Two month long Amarnath Yatra reflects govt's confidence, people's enthusiasm: Dr Jitendra Singh

AGENCIES
MAMPURI (UP), JUNE 6

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Science & Technology, PMO, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Landslide disrupts traffic on Mughal Road

JINNEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JUN 6

The Mughal Road - connecting the twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri in Jammu region with south Kashmir's Shopian - was closed for traffic after it was thrown open yesterday for vehicular traffic after nearly a week.

An official said that the road was made through after a landslide debris, occurring last week, was cleared yesterday.

"The road was open for one-way traffic since last afternoon and the traffic movement which was allowed on both sides today had to be suspended after a landslide occurred at Rata Chambb in Surankote", the official said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Programme will go long way in boosting morale, confidence of martyrs' wards: DGP

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 6



An impressive certificate distribution function was held today at Police Public School Bemina here for the wards of J&K Police martyrs after they completed one month Digital Skill Development Pro-

gramme organized by Indus Towers with Jammu and Kashmir Police under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). The Director General of Police, J&K, Shri Dilbag Singh who was the chief guest on the occasion presented certificates and mobile tablets to these wards.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

NIA raids 10 places in Punjab, Haryana in case against Khalistan Tiger force

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUN 6

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday conducted searches at 10 locations in Punjab and Haryana in a case linked to banned terrorist organization Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF).

The raids were being conducted at nine locations in Punjab and one in Haryana in connection with a criminal conspiracy hatched to raise funds for the banned terrorist outfit and also smuggle arms, ammunition and explosives for it from across the border.

The NIA had registered a suo moto case on August 20 last year under various sections of Indian Penal Code and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

In the same case, the NIA arrested two "wanted" close associates of Canada based "listed terrorist" Arsh Dhalia on May 19 this year soon after they arrived at the



Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) from Manila, Philippines, where they had been living.

The duo, identified as Amritpal Singh alias Ammy and Amrit Singh, both hailing from Punjab, were nabbed in an early morning operation by the NIA, whose team was waiting at the Airport for their flight to land.

The NIA earlier informed that the two accused had non-bailable arrest warrants issued against them by the NIA Delhi Court in a case related to the unlawful and violent activities of banned organisations in India. The accused have several criminal cases registered

against them in Punjab. The NIA investigations have revealed that the accused had been working for individual designated terrorist Arshdeep Singh Dhalia to promote violent criminal activities of the KTF in India.

In association with another notorious wanted accused Manpreet Singh alias Peeta, the NIA has said, the two accused had been involved in smuggling weapons from Pakistan and recruitment of youth to carry out acts of violence and terror in the country at the behest of the KTF.

"They were also part of an extortion racket for raising funds for the banned outfit. The accused used to identify extortion targets, including businessmen, and then threaten them into parting with huge amounts. In case the identified targets refused, their homes and other premises would be fired at by the accused's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Dr Puri shares landmark development works of 9 years under PM Modi

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 6

Dr. Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister for Housing & Urban Affairs & Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas was addressing a Press Conference at Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. Along with MP (Lok Sabha) Jugal Kishore Sharma, J&K BJP General Secretary & Maha Jana Sampark



Abhiyaan Incharge Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, BJP General Secretary Adv. Vibodh Gupta, former Minister & BJP NEM Priya Sethi and party Secretary Arvind Gupta.

"We had to face COVID-19 pandemic two years ago and are providing dry ration to 80 crore people under PM Garreb Kalyan Ann Yojana, 12 Crore households got tap water, 3 crore homes constructed under PMAY, 12 crore toilets

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

EC should tell people why no elections in J&K: Omar Abdullah

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUN 6

National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said the Election Commission should muster courage to tell people why assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir are not being held.

"Is there a pressure on them (EC) not to hold elections? Let the Election Commission show some courage and say that they are under pressure. There is something fishy," Abdullah told reporters outside the party headquarters here.

Abdullah, a former chief minister, said the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

MeT forecasts mainly dry weather with chances of evening showers in J&K

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 6

Weather likely to remain dry on Tuesday with gradual increase in temperature in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The Meteorological Department forecast mainly clear weather with a chance of a brief spell of Rain, thunder or lightning could occur at some places towards late afternoon or evening with a chance of 30-40 percent. The temperature will gradually increase and warmer

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Natrang's Summer Theatre Camp- 2023 begins



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 6: Natrang's Summer Theatre Camp- 2023, the most sought after event for children in the region inaugurated here today at Natrang Studio Theatre, Jammu with the lighting of traditional lamp by Director Natrang Padmashri Balwant Thakur. He was accompanied by senior artists of Natrang Sumeet Sharma, Vikrant Sharma and Gauri Thakur (Workshop Coordinator).

Natrang's Children Theatre Wing was started in the year 1990 and since then, annual Summer Theatre camps, Spring Theatre workshops, Winter Theatre Workshops have been a regular feature of Natrang's children activities. The period of Summer Vacations is exclusively dedicated for Children Theatre every year in Natrang as this is the only

time when children have many days in continuity to learn, explore and groom their personalities and improve their immense inner abilities in a fun-filled creative space and occasion. Till now, Natrang has groomed the personalities of thousands of children with an effective and efficient transforming tool called theatre.

A new full-length play would also be prepared by the participants during Natrang's Theatre Camp-2023 which would be presented before larger audiences who get a chance to watch a wonderful children's play every year as the outcome of the summer theatre camp.

The training module is designed by Padmashree Balwant Thakur, who has taken the children theatre of Jammu to the entire length and breadth of the Country. His children theatre productions like 'Mere

Hisse Ki Dhoop Kahan Hai', 'Aap Hamare Hain Kaun', 'Hum Hain Na', 'Udaan' etc. are considered to be the landmark children productions of India. His play 'Aap Hamaare Hain Kaun' has been translated and staged in French, English and Creole internationally. Special training focus of the workshop will be on developing communication skills, public speaking and imbuing of confidence through latest developed techniques of theatre.

The skill developing techniques, devised by Sumeet Sharma (Recipient of SNA's National Award for Theatre Direction) during his consistent work with children for over 20 years, prove very successful in imparting the benefits of theatre to the children.

The workshop module is consistently developed and upgraded by the innova-

tive inputs by Suraj Singh, Anil Tickoo, Neeraj Kant, Sanjeev Gupta and Aarushi Thakur Rana, senior functionaries of Natrang. The children would get training under the supervision of experts in the field. The camp will also have the intervention of Digital arts, Cartooning, Yoga and visual arts in addition to dancing.

A dedicated team of artists/trainers which includes Mohd. Yaseen, Meenakshi Kaur, Palshin Dutta, Mihir Gujral and Sheryaar Salaria will facilitate the smooth functioning of the workshop.

Those who are attending this workshop include Shafaq Fatimah, Akshith Basur, Samrat Sharma, Advait Soham, Raaga Sharma, Adeesha Singh, Rahaan Chandra, Jayaditya Singh, Supria Gorka, Shailaja Sandhu, Shambhavi Sharma, Sharvill Mahajan, Shranaya Mahajan, Javir Singh, Reet Gupta, Aryan Gupta, Adira Gupta, Daivik Gupta, Mehak Chib, Abhiraj Sharma, Sadhya Sharma, Aaraya Shan, Mirigaya Shan, Daivik Shan, Advik Sharma, Tanmay Chopra, Tanishka Chopra, Aarav Vashisht, Aadya Thakral, Kavya Jandial, Jeevansh Sharma, Arindam Kohli, Aarohi Kohli, Saanchi Dutta, Dwijesh Dutta, Riaan Gupta and Manavi Bhushan.

Puri addressed Sanyukt Morcha Sammelan, meet Sikh community members

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 6L: On the second day of his visit to the city of temples, Union Minister for Housing and Urban Development and Petroleum and Natural Gas, Dr. Hardeep Singh Puri, addressed massively attended "Sanyukt Morcha Sammelan" at Kullian in RS Pura constituency. Dr. Puri was accompanied by MP (Lok Sabha) Jugal Kishore Sharma, Prabhari Ayodhya Gupta, District President Rekha Mahajan, Seh-Prabhari Adv. Dev Raj, Dy. Mayor Baldev Billawaria, Prof. Gharu Ram, former MLC Vikram Randhawa, Pt. Ashok Khajuria, Akash Chopra, Pushpinder Charak, and other senior leaders of the party. All the Morchas of the party with their teams attended the Sammelan.

The programmes were organized under the leadership of BJP District President Rekha Mahajan.

More programmes of RS Pura, Arnia and Bishnah Municipal Committee were organized in which Dr. Puri listened to the demands of the MC members and assured that Modi government is committed to provide all the basic amenities to the public and for the purpose the ULBs will be provided best infrastructure. MP (Lok Sabha) Jugal Kishore Sharma, for-



mer Minister Sham Choudhary, Prof. Gharu Ram Bhagat, DDC Vidya Motan, District President Rekha Mahajan, Dy. Mayor Baldev Bilawaria, accompanied Dr. Puri during the visits.

The Union Minister, while addressing the Sammelan, said that the BJP has grown into a big banyan tree and that it has become possible only due to the support of all sections of society. The BJP has different Morchas in its organizational structure, and they have a platform to highlight the plight and problems of their communities.

Dr. Puri said that the Modi government, during its nine years, has taken care of every section and framed different schemes aimed at real welfare and upliftment of the poor and

needy. In return, these people too have responded and contributed to making the BJP the world's largest political party, leaving behind China's Communist Party. He stressed upon the party activities to maintain direct contact with all the sections and apprise them of every such scheme that is being launched from time to time in the future too.

At Shree Gurudwara Sahib in Gandhi Nagar, Dr. Puri was accorded a warm welcome by District Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee President and his team. He, while interacting with the members of the Sikh community gathered there, told that the government at the Centre under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken a number of decisions aimed at mitigating the sufferings

of the community and ensuring dignified life. He said that opening of Kartarpur corridor has been one of the major gift of the Modi government to the Sikh community, adding that the holy Shree Guru Granth Sahib was brought to India with full religious honour by the government from Afghanistan and organized Kiran by 300 Raagis to celebrate 400 years of Prakash Utsav of 9th Guru Shree Teg Bahadur Singh ji.

Dr. Puri was accompanied by MP (Lok Sabha) Jugal Kishore Sharma, former MLCs Vikram Randhawa & S. Charanjit Singh Khalsa, District President Rekha Mahajan, District Seh-Prabhari Vinay Gupta, senior leader Sanjay Bhat, also visited Shree Gurudwara Sahib in Gandhi Nagar area.

Shiv Sena(H) committed to highlight day-to-day problems of public: Kesri

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 6: Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K President Pt Rajesh Kesri today framed Party's new unit of men and women at village Chak Zafar of Block Marh. According to press release, Mohan Lal Khajuria, P.H.E, PDD, Revenue and other issues related to the development and personal problems faced by them were presented in front of Rajesh Kesri. He assured them to take up their issues with the concerned authorities and get the same resolved at the



earliest. He said that party is fully committed to address the day to day problems being faced by the people. He said that Shiv Sena Hindustan will make sincere attempt to lessen the gap between administration and people and ensure that genuine issues of people are redressed in an efficacious manner. Kesri said that

every SSH activist works with a commitment to end the woes faced by the public. "For this Party remains in constant touch with the common masses through various activities, and through the medium of these grievance camps," he said.

He stressed the need to sort out the issues faced by

the masses on a routine basis. He stressed they have tried sincerely to provide the best possible solutions presented by the masses. Prominent among those present on the occasion include Balveer Kumar, Sanjeev Sharma, Vijay Luthra, Ramesh Kumar, Rajkumar, Darshana Devi, Jyoti Devi, Rajni Devi besides others.

MSCBC Trust's National Art Workshop 'Kavyabhoomi' enters day-4

J I NEWS SERVICE

PAHALGAM, JUN 6: The week-long National Art Workshop 'Kavyabhoomi' organized by Master Sansar Chand Baru Memorial Charitable (MSCBC) Trust in collaboration with Petroleum LNG at Pahalgam in Kashmir entered into Day-4 here today.

The renowned artists leading the national art 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.

A total of eleven artists including five from Kashmir and others from different parts of the country are taking part in the workshop. The participating artists include Laxmipriya Panigrahi, Bhakti Vilas Lad, Nilisha J Phad, Kishore Roy, Vikram Nayak, Digbijayee Khatua, Snober Jeelani Shah, Naushad Hussain, Azim Hassan Zargar Zahoor and Javid Iqbal.

On the fourth-day of the



workshop, hundreds of students from local government schools of the area took part in the workshop and learned art skills from the artists of national repute.

Azim Hassan lauds the efforts of Master Sansar Chand Baru Memorial Charitable Trust for holding a week-long workshop in the Valley. He said such workshops are the need of the hour to enhance the skills of youth of Jammu and Kashmir who are very talented. He said such workshops would provide exposure to the youth to exhibit their talents.

Artist Nilisha J Phad from Delhi while interacting with this reporter said that she has done masters in portraits and was very enthusiastic to participate in this workshop in Kashmir. While pointing to her artistic creation in the workshop, she said "In my work I have tried to reflect quality focussing on human nature. She thanked the organizers of workshop for providing the opportunity to the artists to create and display their works in such a beautiful destination i.e. Pahalgam.

Bhakti Vilas Lad from Mumbai while talking to

this reporter stated, "I like to be part of this workshop as it has provided a unique chance to enhance our creativity amid beautiful valleys. I work in an articulate/ figurative style including, even displaying emotions."

Speaking on the occasion, Anuradha Rishi, President of the Trust, said 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.

She said Art plays an important role in grooming the children but the sad part of the story is that toddlers in J&K remained away from this virtue due to turmoil in the region. However, despite such hardship the inherent quality of people of J&K had ensured that they could learn the basics and grasp the rudimentary knowledge, she added. She assured to bring more art projects to J&K to help children to become ardent lovers of this field.

Make Jammu as pilgrimage tourism capital of India: Tony urges LG Sinha

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 6: Taranjit Singh Tony, Chairman of AAP J&K for Administrative Engagement and Minority Affairs and DDC Suchetgarh has called on the Lt Governor to develop Jammu as a pilgrimage tourism capital in India. Recognizing the city's potential as the 'City of Temples', he believes that the rich cultural heritage and the potential of the ancient temples of Jammu region can significantly boost the region's economy.

In a statement issued here today, the senior AAP leader laid stress upon the government to develop the ancient temple of Shri Raghunath ji at Suchetgarh border which is presently being maintained by the J&K Dharmarth Trust. He sought that the land of Dharmarth Trust in the area should be cleared from illegal occupants and the same land should be developed into a tourist attraction by creating a recreational park including an installation of musical fountain as the same was installed at the Baghe-Bahu. These attractions will help



increase the number of tourists visiting the Suchetgarh border and improve the local economy.

Furthermore, Tony requested the government to develop Gharana Wetland for tourism purposes. The Chief Secretary, Arun Mehta, during his visit to border town, has showed his keen interest to develop Suchetgarh and Gharana for tourism purposes. In addition, he requested that the government to provide adequate compensation to poor farmers of Gharana to protect their liveli-

hoods while facilitating tourism. To further promote tourism, Tony suggested promoting home stay tourism in the border area and requested a special recruitment drive for the youth of border villages. He urged the government to prioritize the youth of Gharana village while conducting the recruitment drive in the area.

Tony has also highlighted the farmer's plight in Gharana and requested that poor farmers receive adequate compensation for their land. As Gharana's youth are unlikely to find any other source of livelihood, he has advocated for a special recruitment drive for border village youth, giving them preference.

Reiterating his demands, Tony said developing Jammu as a pilgrimage tourism capital and promoting tourism in the border areas will boost the economic development and uplift the livelihoods of local communities. He appealed to the Lt Governor to take serious note of the aforesaid issues which can boost the economy as well as increase the footfall of tourists in the Jammu region.

NSS Unit of DLC in collaboration with IQAC organises poster making Competition to mark "World Environment Day"

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 6: NSS Unit of Dogra Law College in collaboration with IQAC organised poster making Competition on the topic "Save Water Save Earth" on the occasion of World Environment Day which is observed on 5th June every year.

Six students from BA LLB 5 year and three students from LLB 3 year (Prof.) Course participated in the competition. The participants made quality posters expressing their perception on the topic "Save Water Save Earth". The main objective of organizing this poster making competition is to make the students aware about the importance of water in our day to day life and how



conservation of water eventually saves our Mother Earth. The students worked with great zeal and enthusiasm to make this competition a successful event. The judges had a tough time deciding the winners on the basis of relevance to the theme, originality and creativity. The first prize was bagged by Tsechu Lamo of BA LLB 5 year 2nd semester, second prize winner

was Megha Chouhan of BA LLB 5 year 6th Semester and third prize was bagged by Mehak Mahajan of BA LLB 5 year 2nd Semester.

The judges for the event were Prof. Darshana Sharma, Director, DGC & CD, Ms. Sumiksha Kazdan, Senior Lecturer, Dogra Law College and Ms. Parema Bakshi, Lecturer, Dogra Law College. The judges appreciated the partici-

pants for portraying the theme of World Environment Day with originality and creativity.

Among others who were present in the event were NSS Programme Officer, Dr. Priya Sharma, IQAC Coordinator, Ms. Arushi Khajuria and Press Release Committee namely Ms. Shashista Farooq, Ms. Sphista and Ms. Shazia Kousar.

CCI delegation call on Union Minsiter Hardeep Singh Puri



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 6: The Office Bearers and Senior Members of Chamber of Commerce & Industry under the Presidentship of Sh. Arun Gupta met Sh. Hardeep Singh Puri, Hon'ble Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs and Petroleum and Natural Gas.

At the outset Sh. Arun Gupta expressed gratitude and thanks to the Hon'ble Union Minister for providing an opportunity to interact and put forth before him the issues and problems being faced by the business community and the general public of Jammu.

Arun Gupta also requested the Hon'ble Union Minister to take up the issues pertaining to the local housing and urban development department with the concerned higher authorities for their early redressal.

While speaking on the occasion Sh. Arun Gupta briefed the Hon'ble Union Minister that there is urgent need to develop the commercial sites and residential colonies as since last 3 decades no such sites or colonies have been developed by the J&K Housing Board and JDA. Further the allottees of Channi Himat area have been asked to construct their houses on the

the old city area and since then there is manifold increase in the family members of the allottees.

Further though the Gandhi Nagar area has been declared free hold but the rule of undivided plots still exists and the allottees are not allowed to divide their plots or construct separate houses on the said plots. In addition to this the housing board has allotted plots of 20 marlas to some allottees but 4.5 marlas extra land is under their possession. Earlier there was a scheme under which the allottees had the option to regularize the whole extra land but now the department has directed that only 2.5 marlas of extra land can be regularized and remaining will be retrieved.

Our submission is that the entire chunk of extra land be regularized in favour of such plot holders as envisaged in the previous schemes.

While reacting Sh. Hardeep Singh Puri, Hon'ble Union Minister said that the focus of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and the BJP government is overall development of Jammu and Kashmir and we are on the job to achieve the goal. Further he said that the issues raised in the meeting pertain to the local housing and urban development department and he assured that the issues shall be taken up with the local higher authorities for their early redressal.

Among others present in the meeting include Sh. Jugal Kishore Sharma, hon'ble MP, Sh. Anil Gupta, Sr. Vice President CCI, Sh. Rajeev Gupta, Jr. Vice President CCI, Sh. Manish Gupta, Secretary General CCI, Sh. Rajesh Gupta, Treasurer CCI, Sh. Romesh Chander Gupta, Ex-President CCI, Sh. Shyam Lal Sharma, former Minister J&K, Sh. Shiv Parthap Gupta, Sh. Jagdish Langer, Sh. Rahul Ji, Corporator, Sh. Neeraj Lucky Puri, Sh. Vinay Gupta, Sh. Subash Gupta and Sh. Vijay Gupta.

Image of J&K has evolved under PM's guidance: Sat Sharma



J I NEWS SERVICE

SUNDERBANI/NOWSHERA, JUN 5: Bharatiya Janata Party's Sunderbani-Nowshera unit organized various programs to commemorate the "remarkable" nine-year tenure of Prime Minister Narendra Modi under the "Vikas Tirth Yatra". The event was chaired by Former Minister Sat Sharma (CA) which was organized under the leadership of District President Neena Sharma. The programs were held at Sunderbani, Lamberi, Nowshera and other areas.

Speaking on the occasion, Sat Sharma highlighted the transformative impact of PM Narendra Modi's leadership over the past nine years. He highlighted "how the image of Jammu and Kashmir has evolved and developed under PM's guidance, particularly with a focus on youth empowerment." He pointed out the visible changes witnessed on the ground, attributing them to relentless efforts of BJP workers nationwide. He expressed his enthusiasm for the nationwide celebrations being held to commemorate this unprecedented milestone in Indian politics. Sharma

also stated that the unfortunate lack of attention by the previous Congress led Governments deteriorated the developmental scenario but after 2014 everything pertaining to development was brought back on track by PM Modi which has made India to reach new heights globally.

Neena Sharma also expressed her gratitude to PM Modi for the remarkable progress achieved in the past nine years, particularly after the Abrogation of Article 370. She talked about extensive development in various sectors such as infrastructure, healthcare and education which has significantly benefited the people across nation.

This year Bandheer Singh Vidhansabha Prabhari, District General Secretaries Pritam Sharma & Sukdev Singh Choudhary, Rajinder Sharma DDC member, Mangru Sharma narinder MC Nowshera Chairman, Bal krishan BDC member, Capt Ramesh, Capt Som Dutt, Mandal President Sukhdev Sharma, Madan Pal Sharma Mandal President, Anchal Singh Mandal President, Vinod Sharma, Shubham lakhnapal Mandal President, Rakesh Raina, Bharat bhushan gupta and others were also present.

HAR GHAR DHYAN workshop organized at GGM Science College

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 6: GGM Science college Jammu in collaboration with Art of Living organized Har Ghar Dhyan workshop under the patronage of worthy Principal Prof. Rajesh Kumar Gupta and supervision of NSS unit II Program officer Dr. Deepali Mahajan and Psychological Cell Convener Dr. Shakha Sharma. The Art of Living Foundation is a volunteer-based, humanitarian and educational non-governmental organization (NGO) having its centres at 180 countries. It was founded in 1981 by Gurudev Shri Shri Ravi Shankar. Under the banner of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Ministry of Culture has collaborated with Art of Living to reach out to the masses and youth to educate them about mental health and empower them with the tool of meditation for better health.



ment programs a computer science engineer MBA in Operations and Marketing by profession.

The workshop opened with the welcome address by Dr. Deepali Mahajan, meditation ambassador of the college. Ms. Akshita Sharma very beautifully explained how the change in life style adopting meditation, pranayama and stress relieving kriyas help in boosting immunity and health, relieve stress, anxiety and depression, ability to manage our mind, increasing stamina. The practice of meditation is to maintain mental hygiene.

A calm mind, focused attention, good concentration, improved communication skills, unshakable inner strength, healing powers, relaxation, rejuvenation are the natural effects of meditation practice.

She involved all the participants in short meditation.

The students and faculty members felt very relaxed and positive after the welcome session. Dr. Anil Kumar Verma Vice Principal appreciated the efforts. Dr. Vandana Khajuria, Dr. Poonam Kamra, Prof. Ajay Gupta presented planter to the Art of Living Team. Prof. Jyotdeep, Prof. Asha Sharma, Prof. Samita, Prof. Preeti health, relieve stress, anxiety and depression, ability to manage our mind, increasing stamina. The practice of meditation is to maintain mental hygiene.

DIG-Udh range conducts crime and security review meeting at DPL Reasi



J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 5: DIG Udhampur Reasi Range Sh Mohd Sulaman Choudhary-IPS conducted a tour of Reasi district and held a crime and security review meeting at conference hall District Police Lines Reasi. Meeting was attended by SSP Reasi Sh Amit Gupta-JKPS, Addl. SP Reasi Sh Master Popsy, SP Katrina Vipin Chandran, Dy.SP Hqs. SDPO's and SHO's of District Reasi.

DIG thanked and congratulated all ranks of Police/CAPFs and other agencies involved in the duties for the G20 for the

excellent work done by them over the three day in ensuring a smooth and secure G20 event. Police Station wise review of progress on crime investigation, Inquests proceedings; crime against women, action against drug peddlers, bovine smugglers, and other Anti-National Elements were discussed in the meeting.

Besides this progress of Police Stations on tracing of missing persons, absconders, solving of theft and burglary cases and execution of court process were also discussed threadbare. SHO's /SDPOs of Police

Stations of district Reasi explained the officer regarding cases disposal and progress on different aspects of crime in their respective jurisdictions.

SSP Reasi put forth a detailed view of district Reasi on all the agenda points including the achievements of district Police Reasi in recent past as well as the initiatives taken.

Officers were instructed to achieve notable progress on disposal of pending inquest proceedings, investigation of theft cases and cases under NDPS Act besides other special reported cases.

During the meeting various matters related to acquisition of land for executing new projects of infrastructural development and implementation of various welfare measures in letter and spirit for the police personnel/SPO and martyr families were discussed threadbare.

DIG exhorted officers to review the new trends of radicalization and attempts to revive militancy in district Reasi and stressed all the officers should work hard, keep a track on the activities of OCWs and Surrendered/Released terrorists of their area so as to keep a check on their nefarious designs.

Choudhary further stressed that officers should use technology to counter new trends in terrorism and also monitor social media platforms which are being used to radicalize the local youth.

Officers were asked to work with zeal & dedication to curb other social crime i.e. Bovine Smuggling, Narcotics and drug abuse etc. They were asked to take special care about the security of vital installations & religious places in view of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

Govt. GLDM Degree College celebrates World Environment day



J I NEWS SERVICE

HIRANAGAR, JUN 6: Department of Environmental Science in collaboration with the Eco-Club of Govt. GLDM Degree College Hiranagar organized a symposium on the theme Beat Plastic pollution on the occasion of World Environment day under the aegis of G20. 2023 marks the 50th anniversary of World Environment Day, after it was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972. And on this occasion 15 students enthusiastically shared their views in the form of

oral presentation and by depicting poems on the theme.

Students put forward many views related to various problems faced by today's generation like the amount of plastic waste generated globally and only less than 10 per cent is being recycled and millions of tonnes of plastic waste are lost to the environment. Further they focused on the tiny plastic fibers which are the most common type of plastic waste found in the environment.

Food wrappers, plastic bottles, plastic bottle caps,

plastic grocery bags, plastic straws, and stirrers are the next most common items.

The whole programme was organized under the patronage of Dr. Pragya Khanna, Principal, who also graced the occasion as Chief Guest. She appreciated the efforts of the students and Faculty members for actively participating in the event.

She further stressed to stop using single used plastics that are only meant to be used once and instead of that turn to more environmentally friendly substitutes for plastic. She also appealed to students to follow the rule

of "Zero Waste" which is a way of life that promotes the goal of reducing the amount of material we throw away and instead reincorporating by-products of one system for use for another system. Prof. Neha Bhagat, HOD Environmental Sciences and convener, Eco-Club explained that the objective of organizing the event is to only make young minds aware of their responsibilities towards Mother Earth and how a single individual can play an active role in protecting and improving the environment by changing their lifestyle.

The programme was organized by Prof. Neha Bhagat (HOD Environmental Science & Convener Eco-Club) along with, Dr. Jyoti Rani, Prof. Kiran Thapa, Dr. Arun Kumar, Dr. Usha Rani, Mr. Vikram Janwal (PTI). Others who graced the occasion were Prof. Rakesh Sharma (HOD, Dept. Of Hindi), Dr. Mukesh Kumar (Dept. of Music).

Kalsotra meets Commr Secretary SW for speedy redressal of grievances

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 6: R K Kalsotra State President, All India Confederation of SC/ST/OBC Organisations met honourable Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare UT-J&K who is nodal Agency also Ms Sheetal Nanda (IAS) in her Chamber to discuss the issues faced by SC/ST/OBCs of J&K. A memorandum of demands was also submitted to her which was already reached to her office on 2nd June 2023 through Chief Secretary for her due consideration. Kalsotra said that various demands of SC/ST/OBC were

raised during the meeting. Reservation in Promotions has been stopped in J&K and it should be implemented since 2015, respectively. It is requested that this should be prioritised immediately.

There is a huge backlog of 1 lakh candidates belonging to SC/ST/OBCs. This backlog should be filled immediately. There should also be a re-advertisement of the backlog posts withdrawn by the government in FSC, SSRB, and the backlog in SKUAST, J&K. Kalsotra mentioned that Currently a lot of employees are working on daily wage basis,

contractual obligations, NYC youth, seasonal teachers, ad hoc staff. None of them are on permanent basis. Thus, they should be made permanent and the reserved category employees should be given their due benefits.

Safakarimcharis belong to the most underprivileged section and they should be made permanent on immediate notice.

Proposal of Padma Shree Award and compensation for Teacher Rajni Bala, who got martyred in a terrorist attack in Kashmir on 31st May, 2022 was also put forth by Kalsotra.

DC Srinagar reviews progress of developmental works under R&B Sector

SRINAGAR, JUNE 6

In order to review the progress of developmental works taken up under R&B Sector in the District during financial year 2022-24, a meeting of concerned Officers was held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aljaz Assad here on Tuesday at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner took a comprehensive physical/financial review of works with regard to infrastructure development, upgradation works and macadamization process undertaken by R&B Circle Srinagar/Budgam, R&B Circular Road Project, PMSGY, NABARD, City Roads Division etc.

On the occasion, the DC was given appraised about present status of major developmental works and macadamization process through detailed PowerPoint presentations by the concerned Superintending

Engineers.

Giving details of the Circle, the Superintendent Engineer R&B Circle Srinagar/Budgam informed that as many as 33 works have been approved at a cost of Rs 24.0 crore with a target to macadamize/black-top the roads. While Rs 4.48 crore are also being spent on filling of potholes on 12.70 kilometers of road in CD-1st, CD-2nd, Chadokra and PCD-1st Division of Srinagar District.

In addition, 44 works have also been completed to black-top 117.91 Km road length at a cost of Rs 31.07 Cr during G20 programmes.

Similarly, the Superintendent Engineer (R&B) Circular Road Project informed the DC that a road length is being black topped during the current FY in the Circle at a cost of Rs 6.48 crore.

With regard to filling of Potholes, the DC stressed on completing the works on priority basis to ensure hassle-free movement of commuters. He also asked the concerned



to ensure early completion of works taken up under Srinagar Smart City projects.

The DC was further informed that under NABARD, 8 works have been approved to black-top roads at the cost of Rs 11.50 crore.

It was also given out that work on construction/upgradation of Daggapora-Anchar road is going on at a cost of Rs 2.57 crore. While upgradation of road from Chahterhama to Hadoora via Khimber along S.E Canal including allied links is also being carried out at Rs 2.21 crore to benefit the local habitations.

Under District-Sector, 2023-24 as many as 11 works are

approved with an outlay of Rs 1.42 crore for developmental works.

While reviewing the progress of works being executed under PMSGY schemes, the DC was informed that 10.95 km road length is being macadamized under PMSGY-3 in Mirpora via Achar-DugaPora and Mujkund to Panzina via Rambir Garh areas of the District.

The DC also took a detailed review of Status of SAMAGRA Works and Proposed Budget 2023-24 under District Capex Budget for school Education of the District.

The Deputy Commissioner after taking review of all works

being executed during the current year under R&B and other allied sectors directed the officers to strictly follow the deadlines of each project to ensure their timely completion so that officers are benefitted at large.

The DC laid stress on speed-uping up the pace of execution process to complete the works in a time bound manner. He exhorted upon the concerned Officers to monitor the progress of works on daily basis by maintaining work wise PERT-Chart.

The DC asked the officers to work with added zeal and due diligence to ensure that DPRs of all development projects must incorporate all aspects of that infrastructure like boundary wall, furniture, landscaping etc so that the asset is completed in one go for its better utilization.

The DC stressed the officers to work with a vision of development and welfare of the people and make sure that all the projects are completed within the stipulated time

frame with strict adherence to the quality standards.

During the meeting the DC took first hand appraisal about the progress on ongoing major development projects including 127-meter long Noorjahan Bridge on Jhelum river at Qamarwari being constructed at a cost of Rs 10 crore.

The DC also reviews progress of ongoing works on construction of flyovers and Nowgam Junction, Bemina Crossing and Sanat Nagar being carried out at a cost of Rs 34.90 crore, Rs 31.49 crore and Rs 41 crore respectively with the aim to decongest the City areas and ensure smooth fly traffic on National Highway.

The DC was informed that work is going in full swing on Nowgam and Bemina Flyovers and shall be made operational by September this year while Sanat Nagar flyover will be completed by November 2023.

While reviewing progress of R&B work on the Rs 7.42 crore project for construction of second Tankpora bridge adjacent to

DC Office Complex, the DC stressed the officers to accelerate the pace of work and complete the construction of the vital project.

Similarly, the DC asked the Officers to start work on construction of Footbridge over the Kut-kul to connect the parking facility in Old Secretariat premises with Amar Niwas Complex housing offices of the Financial Commissioner Revenue (FCR), Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir and Deputy Commissioner Srinagar.

Chief Planning Officer, Mohammad Yaseen Lone, Superintendent Engineer R&B Circle Srinagar/Budgam, Sajad Naqeeb, Superintending Engineer R&B CRP, Mohammad Maqbool, Chief Education Officer, Mohammad Shabir District Health Officer, Dr Asfiah and Executive Engineer R&B City Roads, Besides,

Executive Engineers of R&B, PMSGY, SAMAGRA and other concerned Officers were present in the meeting.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Modi govt disbursed...

... unit and entrepreneur, and also provide a reference point for the next phase of graduation and growth. (Agencies)

Construction work on...

... Amarnath ji's devotees. This seva of pilgrims on the holy pilgrimage is really appreciable, he said.

He also expressed gratitude to Sh Arun Kumar Singh, Chairman ONGC and lauded the Board of Directors of ONGC for their outstanding support in realizing the dream of Yatri Niwas and Disaster Management Center at Jammu.

The Lt Governor impressed upon the executing agencies and all the workers engaged in the construction work to develop the Yatri Niwas as a centre of spirituality which will provide divine experience to the devotees. "Baba Amarnath's holy pilgrimage is the highest peak of spiritual experience. The construction work of Yatri Niwas should be carried out with complete devotion and a grateful heart," the Lt Governor said.

Under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, we are working with greater commitment and devotion to scale up the facilities including lodging, transportation, medical, and better connectivity for the safe and hassle-free pilgrimage of the devotees, said the Lt Governor.

DPR for Chandanwari-Pantjarni- Sangam Top-Baltal road being prepared by NHIDCL is at advanced stage. On completion, this road will provide smooth passage to the pilgrims, he observed.

Last year, the maximum number of 3.65 lakh pilgrims visited the Holy Shrine of Shri Amarnathji, since 2015. As many as 120 additional bank branches were added last year to facilitate the registration of the pilgrims and this year the registration facility is being provided through 542 branches across the country, he added.

In 2021, the initiatives of online Darshan, havan and prasad were taken to facilitate the devotees. Moreover, Yatri Niwas at Chandrakot which was inaugurated in June last year accommodated around 50,000 devotees, he further said.

The Lt Governor said the work for upgradation of Yatra track has been done on a war footing and the work was resumed after snow clearance in March this year.

We are making dedicated efforts to strengthen communication connectivity. Telecommunication towers, Cell on Wheels are being installed by the telecom service providers, besides Army is laying an Optical fiber cable from Sonamarg to Holy Cave, he added.

Designed by School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi, the Yatri Niwas is set for completion within 18-month time period.

Sh Bharat Bhushan, Chairperson DDC Jammu; Sh Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member of Parliament; Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Sh Arun Kumar Singh, Chairman, ONGC; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, CEO, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board; Padma Shri Prof. Vishwa Murti Shastri; members of SASB; senior officials of Police and Civil Administration and a large number of people were present.

LG inaugurates SMVDSB's...

... and other souvenirs will also be available at the Prasad counter.

Pertinently, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has taken several measures for enhancing the efficiency of the operation of door-to-door delivery of Prasad boxes, Panchmewa Prasad and minimising the delivery time with real time tracking of Prasad.

Five dedicated Prasad Kendras cum Souvenir Shops have been made operational in the last 10 months besides operationalization of 07 counters in existing establishments. A Modern Prasad Kendra cum Souvenir Shop was inaugurated at Bhanwan by Lt Governor in the month of February this year.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Sh Anshul Garg, CEO Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; members of the Shrine Board and other senior officials were present.

Programme will go...

ADGP, Security J&K Shri S.D Singh Jammal, DIG Central Kashmir Shri, Sujiet Kumar, DIG Amarg Kashmir, Shri Shahid Mehraj, DIG Crime Shri Javid Iqbal Matus, SSP Srinagar, Kashmir Based JKAP/IRP Commandants, Principal Police Public School Bemina Srinagar Ms. Sing

dha Singh, Chief Executive officers Upper North, Indus Towers Shri Harvinder Singh, National Operational Head, Indus Towers Shri Dushyant Chatterjee Operational officers J&K, Leh Indus Towers, Shri Shuhait Circle HR Head, Ms Sumana of Impact Guru, officers from PHQ were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the DGP thanked Indus Towers and the team of Impact Guru for the initiative and efforts to organize 2nd Digital Literacy programme for the wards of J&K Martyrs and said that it would go a long way in not only sharpening their skills but also boosting their morale and confidence. He said that to stand in today's modern world one besides the qualification needs to have strong self belief, confidence and courage and added that such a programme apart from connecting the participants with the modern literacy also gets them empowered with the organizational, speaking skills. He extended good wishes for the vested interest in allowing Article 370 to continue even though, in the constitution, it was noted and mentioned as a "temporary provision".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has walked the talk, so far, his clarion call of Zero-tolerance for terrorism is concerned, the Minister said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, due to overall peaceful atmosphere and confidence of the Government and enthusiasm of the common man, for the first time after many years, the holy Amarnath Yatra in Jammu & Kashmir starting from 1st July will be of 2 month long duration, which were earlier sometimes restricted to even 15-20 days due to security and other considerations. He said, for the first time, nearly 50,000 people are having Darshan per day at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine, not to speak of the record number of 1 crore, 70 lakh tourists visiting the State each season.

Dr Jitendra Singh pointed out that the recent most successful G20 event in Jammu & Kashmir inclusive of official deliberations, Shikara rides, Golf, shopping in busy markets, Cultural events and participation by all sections of society is a refreshing moment, setting a benchmark for future big events.

The Minister said, the youth of J&K is highly aspirational and does not want to miss the bus. The youth is keen to move on and be led by Modi, he added.

Dr Jitendra Singh said it was Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who gave Jammu and Kashmir the real "self-rule" by ensuring successful conduct of regular Panchayat elections and the first-ever District Development Council (DDC) polls in seven decades in November 2020. On the question of conduct of Assembly polls, the Minister said, the call has to be taken by Election Commission of India by consulting with other agencies. But he added that his party, BJP is always ready for it as they work 24x7x365 on the ground.

He said that the Modi government has created a milieu where all the outlets are available for expression of aspiration by the youth. He also mentioned how the security scenario has undergone a change in the UT where there are no more stone-pelting incidents. He said that credit for all this goes to Prime Minister Modi.

Dr Puri shares...

... under Swachh Bharat have been constructed, 36 lakh street vendors go loan through Swanidhi yojana, 39.65 crore under Yojana Prati roth cash transferred to females, 7351 crore to SC/ST beneficiaries, 5 times more Eklayva schools started, 48.27 crore Jan Dhan Accounts opened, 25 lakh crore transferred into beneficiary Jaha Dan accounts, 37 crore ayushman health cards issued, 2.86 crore homes electrified, crore of cylinders under Ujjwala Yojana provided to poor women, 5.74 rise registered in agriculture budget, 11 lakh crore to agriculture fund, 11 crore kissan beneficiary, 1500 percent increase in oil seed procurement at MSP, manifold increase in pulses procurement at MSP, total fertilizer subsidy increased by 500 percent, 20 lakh crore agriculture credit provided, 1.33 lakh crore under PM Fasal Bima Yojana, 93068 crore allocated PM Krishi Sinchai, ethanol procurement up from 38 crore to 434 crore. These are only a few of the achievements during the nine years of the Modi government", he said.

In 2014, we were the 10th largest economy and in these 9 years of good governance, we have improved ourselves to be in the 5th position in the world; and we are poised to become the 3rd largest economy in the world in the coming few months.

Stressing on the major development projects in Jammu & Kashmir, Puri said that Banihal -Qazigund tunnel has reduced the travel time by several hours, 2 AIMS for better healthcare facilities, many new hospitals, tourism development in all the regions including religious tourism, 10 thousands job creation in Jammu

Landslide disrupts...

... "Men and machinery are on job to clear the debris from the thoroughfare and it may take a while for clearance", the official said.

It has been in the meantime learnt that hundreds of vehicles are stranded on both sides of the road.

There are reportedly many vehicles carrying dev-

otees to Wangthar Ganderbal in connection with an annual festival. (Agencies)

Two month long Amarnath...

... today said, two month long Amarnath Yatra, planned for this year, reflects government's confidence and people's enthusiasm.

Addressing a gathering of prominent citizens here to mark the completion of 9 years of the government headed by PM Narendra Modi, as chief guest, Dr Jitendra Singh said, Jammu & Kashmir and North-East present a example of deft handling of the menace of terrorism and extremism under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi.

He added that in tune with vote-bank politics, Congress and its allied political parties had developed a vested interest in allowing Article 370 to continue even though, in the constitution, it was noted and mentioned as a "temporary provision".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has walked the talk, so far, his clarion call of Zero-tolerance for terrorism is concerned, the Minister said.

Dr Jitendra Singh pointed out that the recent most successful G20 event in Jammu & Kashmir inclusive of official deliberations, Shikara rides, Golf, shopping in busy markets, Cultural events and participation by all sections of society is a refreshing moment, setting a benchmark for future big events.

The Minister said, the youth of J&K is highly aspirational and does not want to miss the bus. The youth is keen to move on and be led by Modi, he added.

Dr Jitendra Singh said it was Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who gave Jammu and Kashmir the real "self-rule" by ensuring successful conduct of regular Panchayat elections and the first-ever District Development Council (DDC) polls in seven decades in November 2020. On the question of conduct of Assembly polls, the Minister said, the call has to be taken by Election Commission of India by consulting with other agencies. But he added that his party, BJP is always ready for it as they work 24x7x365 on the ground.

He said that the Modi government has created a milieu where all the outlets are available for expression of aspiration by the youth. He also mentioned how the security scenario has undergone a change in the UT where there are no more stone-pelting incidents. He said that credit for all this goes to Prime Minister Modi.

Dr Puri shares...

... under Swachh Bharat have been constructed, 36 lakh street vendors go loan through Swanidhi yojana, 39.65 crore under Yojana Prati roth cash transferred to females, 7351 crore to SC/ST beneficiaries, 5 times more Eklayva schools started, 48.27 crore Jan Dhan Accounts opened, 25 lakh crore transferred into beneficiary Jaha Dan accounts, 37 crore ayushman health cards issued, 2.86 crore homes electrified, crore of cylinders under Ujjwala Yojana provided to poor women, 5.74 rise registered in agriculture budget, 11 lakh crore to agriculture fund, 11 crore kissan beneficiary, 1500 percent increase in oil seed procurement at MSP, manifold increase in pulses procurement at MSP, total fertilizer subsidy increased by 500 percent, 20 lakh crore agriculture credit provided, 1.33 lakh crore under PM Fasal Bima Yojana, 93068 crore allocated PM Krishi Sinchai, ethanol procurement up from 38 crore to 434 crore. These are only a few of the achievements during the nine years of the Modi government", he said.

In 2014, we were the 10th largest economy and in these 9 years of good governance, we have improved ourselves to be in the 5th position in the world; and we are poised to become the 3rd largest economy in the world in the coming few months.

Stressing on the major development projects in Jammu & Kashmir, Puri said that Banihal -Qazigund tunnel has reduced the travel time by several hours, 2 AIMS for better healthcare facilities, many new hospitals, tourism development in all the regions including religious tourism, 10 thousands job creation in Jammu

Lok Sabha segment, Ujjawala, social security scheme and many other beneficial schemes have contributed a lot to the development and people's welfare.

After abolition of Article 370 and 35 A, Jammu & Kashmir has witnessed impressive improvement in security scenario and fast-paced progress in the region, thus resulting in improved investments in the multiple sectors.

While it was claimed that the 21st century is of Asia, this narrative has now been changed, projecting India as the sole claimant of the 21st century.

EC should tell...

... Election Commission should be asked when it plans to hold elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The media seems to be more concerned about the elections than us. Election is our right but we are not going down on our knees for it. If they want to snatch the right of people of Jammu and Kashmir, if they get some pleasure out of it, let them do it. We also have some self-respect and dignity," he said.

He said the Chief Election Commissioner, during his last visit to the Union territory, admitted that there was a vacuum in Jammu and Kashmir.

"I FCEC saw a vacuum here at that time, why is it not being filled? What is the compulsion?" he asked.

Asked about an army commander's statement that the time was not right for withdrawal of army from hinterland in Kashmir, Abdullah said he agreed with the General as the situation has worsened over the past few years.

"We are also saying that the situation is not normal. General is also saying the situation is not right. There is militancy in the areas which were cleared of militancy earlier. Look at how their people are seeking security from the government as they are scared. General sahib has said it right," he said.

The National Conference vice president said there was an attempt to cover up the situation in Kashmir by holding the G20 meet here but the local people know the reality.

"You cleaned the roads for the G20 (delegates) but lost to the people the main show that is to travel from one place to another. Where they used to take five minutes to cover a particular distance earlier, they now spend 40 minutes. Students are not able to reach schools in time, employees are late to work, patient dies in ambulance. We know what the situation is," he added. The third G20 Tourism Working Group meeting was held in Srinagar last month.

NIA raids 10 places...

... India-based associates," the NIA said. The arrests were part of NIA's continuous crackdown on individual terrorists and terrorist outfits engaged in a criminal conspiracy to smuggle terrorist hardware, such as arms, ammunition and explosives, and raise funds for carrying out terrorist acts on the Indian soil. (Agencies)

MeT forecasts mainly...

... days ahead are expected in Jammu and Kashmir. The maximum temperature will be in the range of Showers, thunderstorm mainly towards evening can't be ruled out, although chances are 10-20 percent from June 11-12. Overall there is no forecast of any major rainfall till June 12, the MeT office said.

Kashmir weather an independent weather observer forecast of intense showers, hailstorms, and gusty winds are expected in some parts of Kupwara, Baramulla, and Bandipora districts in north Kashmir, with a possibility of such weather activity occurring in other areas as well, albeit with lower chances.

Srinagar recorded a low of 11.2 degree Celsius which was 2.21 degree Celsius below normal of 13.4 degree Celsius for the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir.

The maximum temperature though showed an increase but was still 3.3 degree Celsius below normal of 26.6 degree Celsius recorded on Tuesday.

Qazigund recorded a low of 9.2 degree Celsius, 2.8 degree Celsius below normal of 12.0 degree Celsius for the gateway of Kashmir. Pahalgam had a low of 5.0 degree Celsius, 1.1 degree Celsius below normal of 7.0 degree Celsius for the famous tourist spot of south Kashmir. Kokernag had a low of 8.2 degree Celsius and

Kashmir's Kupwara district recorded 9.2 degree Celsius. Gulmarg recorded a low of 5.0 degree Celsius which was 3.7 degree Celsius below normal of 8.7 degree Celsius for the valley of meadow in north Kashmir the MeT office said.

Kavinder slams WB Govt for depriving people from Ayushman Bharat, other schemes of Central Govt

RAISES SERIOUS CONCERN OVER ATROCITIES AGAINST HINDUS, RAMPANT CORRUPTION IN WEST BENGAL

JJ NEWS SERVICE

BARDHAMAN (WEST BENGAL), JUNE 6: Kavinder Gupta, former Deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP leader of J&K, today criticized the Government of West Bengal for not providing benefits of Central Government schemes to the people of the state.

Addressing media persons here today, the senior BJP leader criticized the government of West Bengal for not implementing the Central Government's flagship scheme of Ayushman Bharat and depriving the people of the state.

"Despite the people of the country benefiting from Ayushman Bharat, the people of West Bengal have been denied this scheme. This speaks volumes about the government's priorities. It is the duty of the state government to ensure that every Central Government scheme is implemented properly, and the people of the state benefit from them," stated Gupta.

Kavinder also expressed his dismay over the growing atrocities against the Hindus residing in the



state. "The entire country is witnessing the atrocities happening to the Hindus in West Bengal. It is a shame that the government is failing to protect the minorities living in the state," he added.

He also raised concerns over corruption in the state, saying that there was a rampant use of bribery, especially in government offices, to get things done. He shared an example of the huge fraud witnessed in MGNREGA works, wherein four cards were made on the name of a single person.

He revealed that nearly 200 workers of BJP had been killed in West Bengal since the 2021 elections, further adding to the evidence of the state's poor governance. "The present

government in West Bengal is not working in the best interests of the people. Instead of serving the people, they are busy doing cheap politics," he said.

The former Deputy Chief Minister also raised concerns about the fraudulent practices observed in the MGNREGA works in the state, revealing that multiple cards had been made on the same person's name. He also criticized the government of West Bengal for changing the names of central-sponsored schemes to confuse the people of the state, highlighting that citizens are not happy with the present government's functioning.

He asked the Government of West Bengal state to focus on

serving their people appropriately, rather than engage in dirty politics.

Earlier, Kavinder Gupta along with SS Ahluwalia, local Member Parliament, Abhijit Taa District President, Debatanu Bhattachary Cluster Incharge, Laxman Ghorai, Krishna Ghosh visited Bardhaman Lok Sabha constituency and apprised people about the key achievements of Modi government in the last 9 years at the Centre.

Later, Kavinder Gupta addressed a meeting of Sanyukt Morcha, asking party workers to remain in public and address their issues related to basic amenities. He asked party workers to make the people aware of the key achievements of the Modi Government over the last 9 years in the country. 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, Make in India, Start Up India and many more.

Later, he along with senior party leaders visited the Sarv Mangla Temple and prayed for the peace and prosperity of people of the country.

Dozens of NC, Congress activists join BJP

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 6: Inspired by the pro-nation and pro-people policies and programmes of the Narendra Modi government, dozens of activists from the Congress and National Conference from the Sangaldan area joined the BJP at its party headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

They were welcomed into the party fold by General Secretary (organization) Ashok Koul. Senior leader Kuldeep Raj Dubey along with Sangaldan Mandal President Sandeep Singh and Mandal General Secretary Baldev Singh facilitated this joining.

Ashok Koul, while greeting the new entrants, said that people across Jammu and Kashmir are getting inclined towards the BJP as they have realized that it is the only political party that has a leadership with concern for the nation and its people.

He said that almost on a daily basis, political activists of other parties are joining the BJP because they have themselves seen



the massive works of development and welfare. He said that the BJP will continue to work for each and every section, religion without discrimination.

Choudhary Abdul and Mohd Qasim, the new entrants, said that they have very minutely seen the work of PM Narendra Modi during the nine years and realized that India has a leader under whose command the nation and its people have progressed.

Every welfare scheme launched by Narendra Modi has reached the doorsteps of the needy.

Homeless people have houses, electricity, tap water, roads, rail connect-

ing benefits for various schemes. Prominent among those who joined BJP included Choudhary Abdul Qudoos, Mushtaq Ahmed Loхар (District OBC Co-ordinator Ramban), Mohamad Qasim, former Block President National Conference, Aijaz Ahmed Bhat NC, Mohamad Shaban Khaloo NC, Abdul Rashid Khaloo NC, Mohamad Hanif Bhat, Jamal Din Kasher INC, Aqub Nazir INC, Abid Mushtaq INC, Mushtaq Ahmed NC, Javed Iqbal Choudhary NC, Manzoor Ahmed Choudhary INC, Sadam Hussain, and Javed Iqbal Hussain.

Kuldeep Raj Dubey said that a wave of change is visible even in the remote and mountainous areas and people there want to be part of the BJP, support it and contribute to nation building.

Panch Mushtaq Ahmed of Farnote, who was earlier in the National Conference, appreciated the splendid governance of Modi during the last nine years and expressed satisfaction that people are get-

ting benefits for various schemes.

Ashraya helps BVM Ambphalla- launch its first Digital, Bag-Less class in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 6: Ashraya, a not-for-profit, has helped BVM Ambphalla launch its first digital class in the true sense.

Students need not carry textbooks and heavy bags when they go to study, thanks to digital education using tablets that are distributed by Ashraya. Teaching and learning now happen using tablets that are provided to students and teachers. Under the digitization of classrooms, tablets have been provided to all students and teachers of class 7 by the Ashraya under One Tablet Per Child (OTPC) and Digital Learning Ecosystem programs.

Bhartiya Vidya Mandir, Senior Secondary School is in Ambphalla, Jammu. It will become Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh's first class where all students have access to tablets. Students studying in the seventh grade can access the entire syllabus on their tablets, allowing teachers to teach students without requiring textbooks and blackboards. Special training has been given on how to carry out digital teaching and learning. Students can approach teachers whenever they come across any query and get it solved



immediately, which is a distinctive and special feature of the "no bag, no textbook" exercise.

Mr. Satish Jha, Chairman of Ashraya, said "In today's era, Technology is the new voice of the world and cannot be separated from education. Our aim is to ensure every child in India gets world-class education irrespective of his or her financial background. Digital education through tablets will facilitate students to get state-of-the-art education, making them ready for the future."

With the partnership with Thimble.io, Ashraya is offering a STEM Robotics & AI (Artificial Intelligence) program that is certified by the US cur-

riculum. Under the STEM program, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics are taught in an integrated manner, fostering creative thinking skills and 21st-century aptitude in students.

As many as 3,480 students studying in Vidya Bharti schools have benefited from the digital education and tablets distributed by Ashraya.

Ved Bhushan Sharma, President, BSSJK, said "Ashraya revolutionized the way technology is used in education. It is a historic step for schools in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. Teaching through OTPC tablets and STEM Robotics and AI is an unprecedented moment in the field of education and technology."

Reena Rajput-Principal BVM Sr. Sec. School BVM Ambphalla, said "The use of technology in education will help students unlock a world of knowledge and opportunities. We got the honor to become the first school in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh to launch the Digital Learning Ecosystem in school education. The digital revolution backed by robotics teaching and tablet use has certainly raised the aspirations of students. Digital tools such as tablets enhance the curiosity and willingness of students to learn new things and explore more, which would help them grow."

PSSP Basohli holds quarterly meet, discusses welfare issues of Ex-Servicemen

JJ NEWS SERVICE

BASOHLI, JUN 6: Purab Sainiks Seva Prashid (PSSP) Basohli unit conducted its quarterly meet at PWD Rest House here today.

The meeting Chaired by District President Subodha Yubkaran (Retd.) which was attended by Ex-servicemen officers, JCOs and Jawans.

Col Mahan Singh (Retd), DDC Chairman was specially invited by the Management. Prominent amongst those who participated were Capt Des Raj, Capt Harnam Singh, Capt Neel Ram, Capt Anchal Singh, Capt Jasbir Singh, Mohd Sultan, Sham Singh, Raj Kumar and SI Ram Rattan. The Prashid members discussed various issues related to the welfare of Ex-servicemen such as ECS Facility, Mobile CSD Canteen Supply, Pension



arrears etc and decided to meet once in a month to interact amongst themselves and highlight their issues.

They members also expressed their support for the construction of war memorials in memory of Martyr Mast Ram, a war hero of 1965 Chamb Indo-Pak War and legendary Late Major Durga Dass Kanaria, a veteran of 1962 and 1965 Wars and social

reformist of yesteryears. Speaking on the occasion, Col Mahan Singh (Retd.) appreciated the patriotic zeal and contribution of these brave hearts and national heroes of yesteryears.

He appealed to them to come forward and share their skills among the youth to harness them as ideal citizens of the future.

Subedar Yubkaran and Capt Des Raj, Capt

Harnam and Capt Anchal Singh also expressed their views on the occasion and thanked PM, Dr Jitendra Singh and Col Mahan Singh for sanctioning National Highway under PMDP Bharatmala project from Kathua to Doda which will pass through Basohli and bring development in under developed hilly region of Kathua.

Apni Party demands ban on illegal mining District Udhampur



JJ NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, JUN 6: Apni Party District Committee, Udhampur has demanded a ban on illegal mining in the district due to which the ground water level has dropped.

Holding monthly meetings at the party office Domain in Udhampur, Senior Vice President Jammu, Ex-MLA Faqir Nath, who is also incharge of the district took review of the situation that is causing problems to the environment and ground water level due to illegal mining.

The meeting was also attended by District President, Udhampur Hans Raj Dogra, District Vice President, Jagdev Singh, District General Secretary, Sat Paul, District Youth President, Ajeet Kumar Sharma,

Senior leader Talib Hussain, and others.

Faqir Nath while addressing district committee at party office Udhampur strongly demanded a stern action on illegal mining, mineral like stone, bajri, and, sand from the river, nallas, and khad in District Udhampur due to which the level of ground water is refused in most of the areas.

Nath said "Our party extends full support to agitating people against the illegal mining with the involvement of the mining department and civil administration."

He expressed his displeasure over the situation which was created by the district administration.

If no action is taken against the mining mafia the party and people

come out on the road. He said that the district's rural areas have poor road connectivity, unscheduled electricity cuts, and irregular drinking water supplies. Many villages even do not have tap water supply and hence, they depend upon the natural springs, he added and demanded that the Govt should look into issues of development, and providing basic amenities.

He further urged the LG to take immediate steps to put a curb on mining mafia working illegally and using heavy machines to lift stones etc without fear in District Udhampur many other issues were also discussed in the meeting. Meanwhile, large numbers of newcomers joined the Apni Party in presence of Faqir Nath.

Those who joined the party include Romesh Kumar, Kalu Ram, Jagdish Singh, Radhey Sham, Awan Singh, Sanjay Kumar, Baldev Raj and others. In his address, Hans Raj Dogra gave a warm welcome to the new entrants in the party and assured them that party leadership is working on grass root level for the upliftment of downtrodden people and carrying forward Apni Party agenda.

Ashok Koul hails BJP Morchas for strengthening party

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUN 6: Under party's ongoing month-long programmes, Jammu and Kashmir BJP General Secretary (Org), Ashok Koul chaired and addressed Sanyukt Morcha Sammelan at Arnia, in Bishnah Assembly Constituency.

Prominent party leaders on this occasion included former MLA Ashwani Sharma, District Prabhari Rajinder Singh Chib, BJP District President Sunil Dutt Shastrri, District Seh-Prabhari HS Pammii, DDC Surekha Devi, BDC Chairperson Bishnah Surjeet Kumar, MC Arnia President Ramesh Saini, MC Bishnah Vice-President L. Ramesh Lal, Assembly constituency Convenors, Mandal Presidents and other leaders.

Addressing the gathering of Presidents and office bearers of Kissan, Mahila Morcha Yuva, SC, ST, OBC, and Minority Morcha, Ashok Koul said that the BJP is a large organization with participation from



all sections of society. It is the party that has constituted these Morchas at all levels that has strengthened the BJP.

These Morchas have a well Knit-organizational setup up to Mandal level and every scheme for the welfare of every such section reaches the grassroots through various activities. Ashok Koul said that like other

states and UTs, Jammu and Kashmir too has benefited from the schemes of PM Narendra Modi's Government during the past nine years. These schemes have brought change in the socio-economic conditions of weaker sections in particular. He expressed hope that the party's Morcha activists will continue to help the needy people in availing the Modi government.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

Perennial problem of unscheduled power cuts

With a rise in mercury, Jammu region has started experiencing the heat of summer season which has brought back the perennial problem of unscheduled power outages. The onset of summer season has brought the contingency plans of Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Department (JKPDD) under the scanner and its preparedness to meet the demand of power supply. Two years ago, the power crisis used to be far beyond imagination. Power cuts ranging from 12 to 14 hours in a day were being imposed across Jammu region. Moreover, authorities struggled to find a tangible solution to deal with the prevailing electricity crisis as unbridled power cuts and frequent tripping of transmission lines amid soaring temperature have turned pernicious for Jammuites, especially elderly persons and young children, suffering from various ailments. Despite worsening power crisis, the government appears to be reluctant to purchase additional electricity from outside Jammu and Kashmir at exorbitant rates against the backdrop of a whopping annual revenue loss of over Rs 3,400 crore in the power sector. Government officials claim that several shortages of coal have also triggered power outages in many states and UTs including J&K. Thermal plants across the country have been grappling with coal shortage and early onset of summer due to climate change. In Jammu and Kashmir, the peak demand of electricity was in the month of May 2021 but this time electricity demand increased manifold in March itself due to intense heat wave as March 2022 was the hottest March in India's 122 year old recorded weather history. As against the peak demand of power to the tune of 1300 MW in Jammu region, just 700 MW is being provided at present by the government while Kashmir region is getting 1000 MW against the demand of 1700 MW of electricity supply. So, against the total power demand of 3000 MW in J&K UT, the Government is providing hardly around 1700 MW of power supply. It is expected that power supply position may turn more grim in J&K UT as the State Load Dispatch Centre (SLDC), has given afresh instructions to Power authorities in J&K to maintain supply position in Jammu to the level of 600 MW instead of 700 MW for few days and in Kashmir instead of 1100 MW to 900 MW. Apart from shortage of coal at thermal plants, Jammu and Kashmir has experienced less rainfall in the month of March that also aggravated the situation. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha while addressing a function last month had said, "We are purchasing electricity for Rs 6,000 crore but only getting revenue of Rs 2,600 crore. We are suffering a loss of Rs 3,400 crore annually". The unbridled power cuts have badly affected the industrial sector and business houses across Jammu and Kashmir. The people are also forced to hold mid-night protests against the PDD as a series of outages especially during night hours have disturbed their sleeping habits. There is no doubt that Jammu has been paying the price for its nationalism as it generates more revenue for getting a lesser power supply. In Kashmir, overall AT & C losses are nearly 70% while in Jammu it is nearly 52%. During the last financial year, JPDC billed only 62% of its energy supplied to the consumers, which indicates its billing efficiency as 62%. Moreover, it recovered 3310 MUs, which indicated that its collection efficiency was to the tune of 76.33 %. Kashmir Power Development Corporation billed only 34 % of its energy it supplied to the consumers during the same period, so its billing efficiency remained 34 %. Unscheduled power cuts have become a perennial problem despite the government of India has provided liberal funding to bring reform in the power sector. It is high time that the government of India should initiate tangible measures to ensure that the people are provided some relief in this scorching weather.

India and the US are indispensable partners

Indian Navy, with the support of the US and partners, can provide the nucleus for the maritime security architecture in the Indian Ocean.

PK VASUDEVA

The India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership seems to be playing out on two parallel tracks concurrently. Considering the effusive interaction between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden

at Hiroshima in May, the June 4-5 India visit of US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin — the second since he assumed office in 2021 — and the PM's forthcoming state visit to Washington later this month, the bilateral relationship is on the right track. There are prospects of some high-level defence and technology cooperation-related announcements being made during the PM's visit.

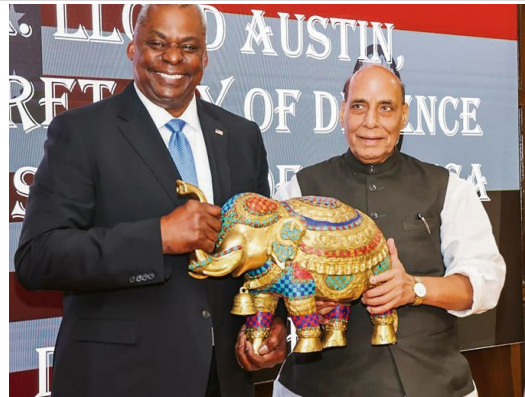
However, a narrative emanating from the US strategic community suggests some weakening of the underpinnings of this partnership. A recent article published in the Foreign Affairs suggests that the US expectations of India being an active partner in collective defence against Chinese aggression are misplaced and that India will never involve itself in any US confrontation with China that does not threaten its own security. The article surmises that for the US, India seems a 'bad bet' (for strategic and technology cooperation).

Another piece, appearing on its heels in the Financial Times, suggests that while India does not want a China- or US-dominated world order, in the short term, it will tolerate the latter as the lesser evil. Earlier, another article in the Foreign Affairs had suggested, in the context of the Ukraine war, that for India, choosing the West over Russia could make it a great power, while also "cautioning" that this was "India's last best chance" before the US started viewing it as an unreliable partner.

This counter-narrative comes amidst an upswing in India-US joint military exercises (six in the last eight months) and the inaugural meeting of the 'Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (ICET)' between the two countries' National Security Advisers (NSAs) in Washington on January 31, 2023. Even earlier, India and the US have been able to put several building blocks of defence and security partnership in place.

Surely, they are not looking at reversing the positive trend or basing future strategic cooperation on shaky pillars. That this crucial relationship needs a reality check and a mid-course correction is understandable.

In considering India a 'bad bet' for the US, the Foreign Affairs article misses making a distinction between India being a 'partner' and not an 'ally' with distinct obligations and expectations. This is at the root of the mismatch in perceptions. While acknowledging the valuable support received from the US in times of crises, which serves as a substantial force multiplier, India places no burden of responsibility on the US for its basic national defence. Also, despite the capability differential with China, India has demon-



strated its resolve and capacity to safeguard its sovereignty.

To a (US) academic mind, India's commitment to the US in the region lies in Indian assets being deployed in the East/South China Sea, augmenting deployments in the Western Pacific. To a military mind, however, strong Indian deployments along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), even for its own security, would well contain sufficient Chinese assets, preventing their re-deployment eastwards. This ability will increase as the Indian power increases. Likewise, the Indian Navy, with the support of the US and partners, can provide the nucleus for the maritime security architecture in the Indian Ocean, relieving the burden of deployment of scarce US military assets in the region.

Notwithstanding the creeping return to the 'hesitation of history' (among the analysts), the militaries must continue their current level of engagement with vigour. Commendable progress has been made in developing interoperability, coordinating domain awareness and information exchange, honing asymmetric warfare capabilities and in the fields of defence technology and trade. With mission-ready forces in place, the leaders would have better options in times of real crises, and an assurance of arresting the drift in another direction.

As technology cooperation captures the imagination of both countries, bilaterally as well as in QUAD, and as we embark on selecting specific areas of working together under ICET — be it investments in semiconductor facilities or shifting aero-engine production to India — it would be prudent to reconcile our perceptions on this critical initiative.

It is a mistake to assume that ICET has been conceived to 'reverse the failure of the DITI'. Far

from it — the DITI (Defence Technology and Trade Initiative) has been a silent enabler, which has helped the two sides assimilate the nuances of working together. Also, the assumption that the "US government, which controls the release of licences for the joint ventures, can make or break this initiative" (Ashley Tellis, America's Bad Bet on India) is self-defeating to start with. We need technology cooperation to achieve strategic stability in the Indo-Pacific by bridging the technology gap with the common adversary in tele-speed timelines.

Finally, regarding the US concerns over the challenge to its arms majors accessing the Indian defence market, the suggestion made by Austin during his last visit to New Delhi (March 2021) seems pragmatic. He said, "It would be prudent on the part of the US to let the Indian armed forces get used to the operational benefits and ease of use of US-origin systems till these become acquisitions of choice, rather than being forced on India by US pressure, which in any case would be most counterproductive".

Austin, who arrived in India on June 4 for a two-day visit, met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on June 5 and firmed up an ambitious roadmap for defence industrial cooperation. He also held talks with NSA Ajit Doval.

India and the US are indispensable partners. The realisation of the need for mutual dependence, a distinction between reciprocity and transactional approach, and consideration of each other's national interests will help strengthen this relationship, nurtured to the present level by assiduous efforts on both sides.

The coming months present opportunities for operationalising the mechanisms already put in place and for ironing out perceptions and expectations.

The war against NPAs isn't over yet

UTIAM GUPTA

According to a joint report by ASSOCHAM and Crisil Ratings, gross non-performing assets (NPAs) - an acronym for loans that have gone bad - of banks have declined by 0.9 to less than 5 per cent during the financial year ending March 31, 2023, and are expected to decline by another 1 per cent to a decadal low of less than 4 per cent by March 31, 2024. In respect of loans given to the corporate sector, gross NPAs are expected to be less than 2 per cent by March 31, 2024, down from a peak of 16 per cent as on March 31, 2018.

The public sector banks (PSBs) too have done remarkably well. According to the Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat K Karad, the gross NPA ratio of PSBs declined from the peak of 14.6 per cent in March 2018 to 5.53 per cent in December 2022.

The decline owes a lot to what Karad describes as a comprehensive 4R strategy implemented by Modi - government. The 4Rs are: Recognizing NPAs transparently, Resolution and recovery, Recapitalizing PSBs, and Reforms in the financial ecosystem.

Recognition is the most crucial component of the strategy. Under UPA - II (2009-2014), banks recklessly gave loans to corporate houses and businesses without assessing the viability of the projects and conducting due diligence. There was an element of 'inevitability' in such loans becoming NPAs. Indeed, these did become



NPAs but were not recognized in the balance sheet.

In 2015, the Reserve Bank India (RBI) ordered an asset quality review (AQR) of all commercial banks to identify stressed assets and make necessary provisions in the balance sheet. As a result, their gross NPAs rose from about Rs 323,000 crore on March 31, 2015, to Rs 1,036,000 crore as of March 31, 2018. As a percentage of the loans, it was 11.8 per cent (14.6 per cent for PSBs).

As for 'Resolution and recovery' in 2016, the government enacted the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). Superseding other subsisting laws gives a strong handle to banks for resolving NPAs within a strict time frame. In 2017, it amended the Banking Regulation Act (BRA) giving RBI the power to force banks to act if they don't do it on their own. On

February 12, 2018, RBI issued a circular containing the specifics of how it was to be done.

Under it, for accounts with aggregate exposure greater than Rs 2,000 crore, as soon as there was a default in the account with any lender, all lenders - singly or jointly - shall initiate steps to cure the default by preparing and implementing a resolution plan (RP). This needed to be done within 180 days from the date of default.

In case of failure to meet this deadline, the lenders were required to refer the accounts to the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) which would initiate proceedings under the IBC. The NCLT would get 180 days to complete the resolution process. A further 90 days are allowed in exceptional circumstances.

The raison d'être of imposing this

timeline and involving RBI to shepherd the exercise was to sell the NPA-affected entity - as a going concern in an 'objective' and 'transparent' manner and maximize the realization from the sale.

Initially, things progressed well with NPAs worth around Rs 300,000 crore handled by NCLT. But, the IBC process was opposed by the defaulting borrowers/promoters. They not only contested the NCLT rulings in the High Court and the Supreme Court (SC) thus causing delays but also challenged the constitutional validity of the February 12, 2018 circular. The SC held the circular illegal and ordered the RBI to come out with fresh guidelines.

Revisiting, the RBI came up with a revised circular dated June 7, 2019. It gives banks 180 days to come up with RP (in addition to 30 days to enter into an inter-lender agreement or ILA). If the banks don't meet this deadline, they are required to make an additional provision of 20 per cent. If they don't finalize within 365 days or one year, an additional 15 per cent provision has to be made.

Under normal ageing provisions, if a loan is in default for one year, it has to be provided for 15 per cent. In case, the delay extends to 15 months, the normal ageing provision increases to 40 per cent. Add to this 35 per cent that needs to be made as per June 7, 2019 circular, and the total provisioning requirement will be a steep 75 per cent. Having provided for such a huge

amount, there won't be any incentive left for the bank to recover the money under IBC.

By taking away powers from the RBI and giving too much leeway to the banks under the June 7, 2019 circular, the SC intervention has substantially diluted the IBC process. Against this backdrop, how come the NPAs situation has shown significant improvement?

A lot of it is due to the third R or 'Recapitalizing PSBs'. During 2016 - 2021, the Central government gave around Rs 300,000 crore as budgetary support to shore up the capital of PSBs. In the budget for 2021-22, it committed another Rs 200,000 crore by way of 'sovereign guarantee of the security receipts (SRs) to be issued by the asset reconstruction company (ARC) or the so-called 'bad bank' where the majority shareholding is with PSBs.

The Centre has goaded banks to undertake Reforms in the financial ecosystem with a focus on responsible lending, going for good quality assets, better monitoring and control over the use of loans, detecting likely stress in assets at an early stage etc. But, the banks have also got a boost from a rebound in GDP growth (during 2021-22, it was 8.9 per cent and a high of over 7 per cent during 2022-23) and associated acceleration in credit growth which enabled them to boost profits and clean up their balance sheets.

Ironically, even under this buoyant

economic scenario, the position of the MSME (micro, small and medium enterprises) segment is worrying. According to ASSOCHAM/Crisil Ratings, their gross NPAs are expected to increase from an already high of about 9.3 per cent as on March 31, 2022, to 10-11 per cent by March 2024. They are handicapped due to the big brothers (read: large companies) charging high prices for inputs and intermediates, delaying payments etc impacting the former's viability and cash flows.

For the overall NPA scenario and even large firms, the real test will come when the Indian economy comes under stress. Although, most of the institutions - Indian as well international - are projecting high growth during 2023-24 and beyond, the possibility of slippage is not ruled out especially when we consider the risk of inflation due to deterioration in the geopolitical situation, rising interest rates globally, contraction in external demand and so on.

To deal with rising NPAs in such situations, the IBC process has to be robust and efficient. But, the current scenario doesn't instill confidence. According to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), of the total 5,636 cases under IBC, 3,637 have been closed. Of the closed cases, nearly half i.e. 1,703 have ended in liquidation. During January-March 2022, recovery by financial creditors was only 10.2 per cent of the admitted claims.

Sushmita Sen completes shooting for 'Aarya' season 3

IN LATE APRIL, SEN RESTARTED SHOOTING FOR AARYA SEASON THREE IN JAIPUR, ALMOST TWO MONTHS AFTER SHE SUFFERED A HEART ATTACK

Bollywood star Sushmita Sen says she has finished filming for the third season of her acclaimed web series 'Aarya'. The 47-year-old actor took to social media on Sunday night to share the update with fans and followers. "It's a wrap!!! #Aarya3 #lovelove Captain @RamKMadhvani #KapilSharma #Shraddha #Aaryafamily" she captioned a video from the set of the show. "Aarya" is co-created by Ram Madhivani and Sandeep Modi. The show, an official Hindi adaptation of the Dutch series 'Penzoa', follows the

journey of Aarya, played by Sen, a woman who finds herself in the world of crime after her husband Tej Sareen (Chadradh Singh) is murdered. In late April, Sen restarted shooting for "Aarya" season three in Jaipur, almost two months after she suffered a heart attack. The former Miss Universe, in an Instagram post early March, revealed she underwent angioplasty following a "big" heart attack. The much awaited season of the Disney+ Hotstar series is co-produced by Ram Madhivani Films and Endemol Shine India.



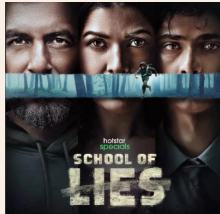
NETFLIX announces 'Lust Stories 2' Kajol Tillotama Shome and Vijay Varma to star



Streaming platform Netflix on Tuesday announced the second edition of its acclaimed film anthology "Lust Stories", starring Amruta Shubhash, Kajol, Neena Gupta, Tamannaah Bhatia, Tillotama Shome and Vijay Varma. The project consists of four shorts, which will be directed by Amit Ravindernath Sharma, R Balki, Konkona Sen Sharma and Supyo Ghosh. According to a press release issued by Netflix, "Lust Stories 2" is produced by Ronnie Screwvala and Ashi Dua along with the streamer. Screwvala of RSVP said the banner is proud to bring the second edition of the Emmy Nominated anthology to the audiences. "We have seen all our films that we have done with Netflix like 'Mission Majnu', 'Lust Stories', 'Paava Kadhaigal', 'Raati Akeli Hai' and 'Dhamaka', being recognised and loved by a global audience, making it the ideal platform for 'Lust Stories 2'."

"Working with Netflix and Ashi Dua once again on this much loved anthology made the entire process that much better and we can't wait for our audiences to see the film," the producer said in a statement. Netflix also released the teaser of 'Lust Stories 2' on social media. Dua, founder and CEO of Flying Unicorn Entertainment, said the company is excited to take the "Lust Stories" franchise forward. "After the resounding success of 'Lust Stories', we are so excited to come back with 'Lust Stories 2!' As we once again collaborate with RSVP and Netflix our goal always is to support unique voices and showcase diverse and new stories with each project."

'SCHOOL OF LIES' REVIEW: A WELL-CRAFTED SERIES THAT PUSHES US TO LOOK WITHIN



School Of Lies, directed by Avinash Arun Dhaware, 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 Salgonkar, 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 career counsellor 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 for 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.

AUDIENCES APPRECIATE WOMEN IN BOLD ROLES!



Agra, directed by acclaimed filmmaker Kanu Behl, recently premiered at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival 2023 in the Directors' Fortnight section — and won a five-minute standing ovation! Ruhani Sharma, who was part of the cast, says she never expected that the film would get such a great reception. "The film going to Cannes was itself a matter of pride. And to get such a resounding reception was overwhelming," shares an excited Ruhani. Her debut Telugu film Chi Law Sow won a National Award (Best Original Screenplay) and Agra was her Hindi debut film. "How many actors are blessed to get this? It's a double delight," she says. Agra explores a family's interpersonal dynamics in the context of sexual relationships and more. It talks about the challenges faced by young Indians who are experimental in their choices but are bound by traditional values. Apparently, Ruhani auditioned three times for her role as a young girl in Agra. She first auditioned four years ago, then did so again a year later. The final time was a week after they called her for a day's workshop. "Kanu's methods of auditioning are very different. When I went for the workshop, I didn't know that I was selected," she says. Adding that the team later revealed that she was already finalised for the part, Ruhani shares that she signed on for the film only for the experience of working with Kanu and to have a better understanding of the craft. She describes the experience as "insightful." "I am glad that my purpose was served," she says, adding, "I spent two months on workshops, so my preparation time was greater than the shooting schedule." She says working for Agra changed the way she looks at script and films. It also changed her choices and the way she approaches her characters. "Prepping and shooting for my character, Mala, was a learning experience."

Ram Pothineni, Sreeleela Shoot for Boyapati Movie in Mysore



Blockbuster maker Boyapati Sreenu and Ustaad Ram Pothineni's highly anticipated movie #BoyapatiRAO is progressing at a brisk pace with its shoot. The team begins its final schedule of the movie today in Mysore. An intense action sequence and a song will be canned in the schedule which will go on till the 15th of this month with the lead cast taking part in it. Except for one song, the film will complete its entire shoot with this schedule. A few candid pictures of Ram and Sreeleela from Mysore airport are going viral on social media. The first thunder which was unveiled for Ram's birthday presented him in a mass character with a rugged look and got a thumping response. Santosh Detake cranks the camera, while SS Thaman scores the music. The film is produced prestigiously by Srinivasaa Chitturi on a massive budget with high production values and top-notch technical standards under Srinivasaa Silver Screen banner. It is presented by Zee Studios South and Pavan Kumar. Editing is handled by Tammuraju.

Takkar is an Action Packed New Age Love Story: Siddharth

Siddharth, the charming hero who has earned an indelible place in the hearts of the Telugu audience with movies like 'Nuvvostanante Nenoddantana' and 'Bommarillu', is the latest movie 'Takkar'. The film is directed by Karthik G. Krish. The film is produced by TG Vishwaprasad in collaboration with Abhishek Aggarwal Arts and Passion Studios under People Media Factory banner. Co-produced by Vivek Kuchibhotla, the film stars Divyansha Kaushik as the female lead. The movie is going to release on June 9, 2023 in Telugu and Tamil languages. The makers are currently busy with promotions and as part of this, the film team organized the grand pre-release event today in Hyderabad. Directors Bommarillu Bhaskar, Tharun Bhasker, Venkatesh Maha and famous producer Suresh Babu participated in this pre-release event. On this occasion, Legendary producer Suresh Babu said, "Vishwa Prasad and Vivek are my good friends, Siddharth is also a good friend of mine from a long time. I wish them all the best. Thank you so much."



"I want this movie to be a good hit." Director Tharun Bhasker said, "I'm delighted to be here. Siddharth appears to be the Kamal Haasan of this generation, always trying something fresh. Siddharth has always been this way. The trailer is excellent; everyone should go to the theatres on 9th June to see the film." Director Karthik G says, "Greetings to all media friends and Thanks to TG Vishwaprasad and Vivek Kuchibhotla guru for their help. This film contains universal story. There are three reasons to release this film in Telugu. The first is your Siddharth, followed by the lovely Divyansha. The final and third reason is that the Telugu audience loved our guru Shankar's films, and I hope that they will adore his protegee film as well. This film will set a new standard for the genre and will far exceed your expectations. On June 9th, this film will be released in theatres." Gorgeous Divyansha Kaushik said, "This movie will release on June 9. Experience this movie in the theatre. Thank you so much."



'I'm in this for the long haul', says Nimrat Kaur

Nimrat Kaur is finally coming into her own as a versatile actor, thanks to the boost she has been given by OTT. She says no matter what surname you possess in Bollywood, it's ultimately only talent that matters. Read on for more of her views on the film industry. "There is a lot in me that I want to explore as an actor, that is absolutely untapped currently," says Nimrat Kaur, who has once again proved her prowess in front of the camera with the critically-acclaimed web series School of Lies. It has been a decade since her breakthrough role in Ritesh

Batra's celebrated film The Lunchbox, opposite the late Irrfan Khan. The 41-year-old actor reveals that though it's hard to break perceptions, she is finally having fun, exploring different characters, as she is being offered varied roles and getting a chance to work on different subjects. Seeking release from the stifling box. The hurdles of perceptions and stereotypes in the film industry are difficult to navigate, and Nimrat says that has been her biggest challenge by far. Despite the 2016 blockbuster Airlift opposite Akshay Kumar adding to her weight as an actor, it was not until the 2022 socio-political satire Dasvi that she was able to expand her horizons as well as showcase her versatility. "It is a perception-led business, you get judged in a certain way, and the same kind of parts keep coming your way. It takes one stroke of genius from someone who has the imagination to reimagine things to take you out of the box you're being stifled in and give you that second lease of life. I know I am not alone in experiencing this, nor am I the first one to do so," she notes. "My role in Dasvi was such an out-of-the-box character for

me; I couldn't have imagined myself playing a part like that. When you're finally given a platform to stretch yourself in a different direction, that is when you are incentivised to be a challenge yourself as an actor/artist," she says. Uncomfortable stories that must be told. Playing a school counsellor delving into the disturbing psyche of teens in Avinash Arun's gripping eight-episode series School Of Lies on an OTT platform has won her much praise for her performance. "I admire Avinash Arun's work, the way he looks at the world — there is something so profoundly poetic about his gaze. That apart, sometimes, as an actor you come to a place where you feel compelled to do something, because it's important for you to be part of an uncomfortable story. We are all so trained from a young age to keep silent on matters of abuse, be it bullying, domestic violence or discrimination. I feel it is our responsibility as creators to wake society up to hard truths and normalize these conversations," she says. What's in a surname? The debate on outsiders vs. insiders is endless, and so is the discourse on how it is way easier for those with illustrious

Germany's strategic ties with India important for Indo-Pacific: German defence minister

Indian side apprised Pistorius about China's aggressive posturing along LAC

NEW DELHI: The German industry is in a 'good place' in the race for India's project to procure six stealth submarines, German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius said on Tuesday after holding talks with his Indian counterpart Rajnath Singh that focused on joint development of key military platform and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

People familiar with the talks said the Indian side apprised Pistorius about China's aggressive posturing along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and also conveyed New Delhi's apprehensions over possible risks if Pakistan gets critical defence technologies by the West.

After the talks, Pistorius told reporters that Berlin's strategic ties with New Delhi became more important in the context of the unpredictable situation in the Indo-Pacific, in comments that came amid growing global concerns over China's increasing military muscle flexing in the region.

He also indicated Germany's approach to intensify defence ties with India while noting Europe's reluctance to deliver weapons to India that he said made New Delhi look towards Russia.

"We are now realising that Russia's star is sinking, to put it that way," he said, highlighting the need for a fresh approach at defence ties with India.

"Of course we also talked about the war between Russia and Ukraine. The war has repercussions here, in every corner of the world. That's no surprise. And India is trying very hard to significantly and quickly reduce its depend-



German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius (left) and Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh (right) during their meeting in New Delhi.

ency on Russia for armaments, which is currently at 60 per cent," he said. Talking about the situation in the Indo-Pacific, Pistorius said Germany and Europe concentrated too much on economic relations with China without putting adequate focus on the political implications. The defence ministry said Singh stressed that India and Germany could build a more "symbiotic relationship" based on shared goals and complementarity of strength, namely skilled workforce and competitive costs from India and high technologies and investment subsidies from Germany.

"I think we should, and we can and we ought to do more in that region (Indo-Pacific) in partnership with India. Because we are approaching times we can't really predict what's going to happen in the next few years," Pistorius told the media in German. "And we need strategic partners like Indonesia, like India, for example, to make sure that the Law of Free navigation, and the free trading routes will be achievable during the next decade too," he said.

Referring to the submarine project, Pistorius said that the process relating to the proposed procurement of six submarines is not yet completed and that German industry is at a 'good place' in the race for the contract. Thyssenkrupp Marine Systems (TKMS) is set to bid for the Rs 43,000 crore project. "We are talking about a deal of TKMS about six submarines but of course the procedure is not finished yet but I think the German industry is at a good place in that race," he said. "We support the 'Make in India' principle favoured by India. We think that's right," the German defence minister said. In June 2021, the defence ministry cleared the mega project to domestically build six conventional submarines for the Indian Navy.

The submarines will be built under the much-talked-about strategic partnership model that allows domestic defence manufacturers to join hands with leading foreign defence majors to produce high-end military platforms to reduce import dependence. Pistorius is visiting the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd on Wednesday and a possible collaboration between it and the TKMS may figure during his meetings with the officials of the defence public sector undertaking.

An official said the bidding process for the mega submarine project closes in August.

Officials said the submarine project figured in the talks between the two defence ministers. In his talks with Pistorius, Defence Singh stressed that India and Germany could build a "more symbiotic" defence relationship based on shared goals and complementarity of strength and invited German investments in defence corridors in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

The two defence ministers also reviewed regional security situations including China's growing assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific and other regions, officials said. Pistorius arrived in Delhi on Monday on a four-day visit to India. It is the first visit of a German defence minister to India since 2015. The defence ministry said the Indian defence industry could participate in the supply chains of the German defence industry and add value to the ecosystem, besides contributing to supply chain resiliency.

It is learnt that the Russian invasion of Ukraine and its implications on the world figured in the talks. "We talked about the fact that our connection, our strategic partnership, should and must gain more momentum," against the backdrop of current developments in the region, but also worldwide," Pistorius said.

He said defence cooperation is a pillar of this partnership between the two countries in a "special way precisely because of our joint strategic partnership". Pistorius said both sides will conduct a military exercise next year which will see deployment of naval units in the Indo-Pacific.

Addressing a press conference, three former speakers of Lok Sabha, Dr. Meira Kumar, Sumitra Mahajan, and Shivraj Patil, lauded the initiative saying it will be a good learning experience for the MLAs. "This conference holds a distinctiveness as it serves as a platform for MLAs to convene, exchange ideas, and gain insights into challenges faced by other states, ultimately seeking solutions," Sumitra Mahajan said. She emphasised that a session on stress management will be held to address a key issue. "Significant efforts have been dedicated to ensure the success of this conference. We are resolute in our stance against casteism, communalism, corruption, climate change, criminalisation, and the remnants of a colonial mindset," said Dr. Meira Kumar. She added that India has a role to play at the international level. "We have a Constitution. We have to take every word of our Constitution to the rural areas and slums and see if we are implementing it. We have to see what we can do that person who often goes unheard in the society is heard," she said.

3-day legislators' conference to discuss ideas to improve federal system from June 15 in Mumbai

NEW DELHI: The inter-party acrimony directly impacts the functioning of legislative assemblies and Parliament, depriving houses of meaningful debates and affecting the learning process of lawmakers. To address such crucial gaps, a unique national-level conference will be held in Mumbai which will witness the participation of over 2,500 legislators from the 25 state assemblies. The three-day conference, starting June 15, will bring legislators, assembly speakers, and former Lok Sabha speakers on a common platform to debate and deliberate on things that will improve the working of the assemblies. The conference will have discussions on ten key themes, including technology-driven economic growth, international legislative practice, collaborative efforts between bureaucrats and legislators for social progress, welfare politics, and nurturing of constituencies. There will be special sessions on stress management and maintaining work-life balance for lawmakers.

"The conference will serve as a platform for legislators from all states and Union territories to share experiences,



Sumitra Mahajan, former Speaker of Lok Sabha, speaking at a press conference.

exchange knowledge on governance and social welfare, and adopt effective models for better governance," said Rahul Karad, the organiser of the conference. In commemoration of India's 75 years of Independence, 75 MLAs will showcase present constituency development practices, while 75 commendable democratic practices from around the world will also be highlighted during the event. Additionally, a round table discussion with spiritual leaders will also take place during the conference.

Swedish defence minister says NATO full membership is top priority

TOKYO, JUN 6: Sweden's defence minister said Tuesday his country's top priority is to gain full NATO membership before the allied leaders gather for their next summit, saying an addition will make the trans-Atlantic alliance even stronger. NATO wants to bring Sweden into the fold by the time United States President Joe Biden and other allied leaders meet July 11-12 in Vilnius, Lithuania, but Turkey and Hungary have yet to endorse the move. All 31 member countries must ratify a candidate's accession protocol for it to join the alliance.

"The Swedish government's highest priority is to become a full-fledged member of NATO as soon as possible," said Swedish Defence Minister Pål Jonson, in Japan for talks his Japanese counterpart and other officials.

"We're hopeful that we can become it by the Vilnius Summit."

Turkey's government has criticised Sweden for being too lenient on terror organisations and security threats, while Hungary has not given details. Jonson said he respects the decisions of Turkey and Hungary, and that Sweden has new anti-terrorism legislation that would "close up any remaining loopholes there" to address Turkey's concern.

"We think the whole northern flag of NATO would be strengthened by Sweden being a full-fledged member into NATO," Jonson said.

He said Sweden will continue supporting Ukraine with weapons, which is "strongly into our national interest, because if Russia would win the war in Ukraine, it would have disastrous consequences for Sweden and Europe's security policy, its geostrate-

gic location and military situation in Europe." "So supporting Ukraine is key for us, and we will continue doing that, as long as it takes," Jonson said.

He said Sweden joining of NATO will also deepen the country's ties with the United States and its ally Japan, as his country is currently negotiating a defence cooperation agreement with Washington. Jonson said Sweden and Japan have similar challenges these days, since Russia's war on Ukraine has brought the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific together. Japan and Sweden signed an agreement in December on defence technology and equipment transfer to deepen arms equipment cooperation.

Jonson and Japanese Defence Minister Yasukazu Hamada are set to hold talks Wednesday to discuss further strengthening of their military ties.

Indian Army chief visits Bangladesh Military Academy reviews passing out parade



Indian Army Chief Manoj Pandey (left) and Bangladesh Military Academy officials during the passing out parade.

DHAKA, JUN 6: Indian Army chief Gen Manoj Pandey on Tuesday visited the Bangladesh Military Academy in Chattogram where he reviewed the award winners of the first passing out parade of the officer cadets of the 84th 'Long Course' and interacted with them.

Gen Pandey, who arrived here on Monday on a two-day visit to Bangladesh - his second trip to the country as Army chief, congratulated the award winners of the passing out course for their exemplary performance.

"General Manoj Pandey #COAS reviewed the Passing Out Parade at Bangladesh Military Academy #BMA, #Bangladesh as Chief Guest. #COAS commended

the passing out cadets for an impeccable turnout & parade display," the Additional Directorate General of Public Information said in a tweet.

The Indian Army chief interacted with the cadets and presented 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 recognition to the 'Bangladesh Trophy and Medal' instituted at the Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun in December 2021 for the 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 present the 'Bangladesh Medal and the trophy.

On Monday, Gen Pandey met his Bangladeshi counterpart General SM Shaifuiddin Ahmed here and discussed various aspects of mutual interest and explored ways to further expand bilateral defence and security ties.

The Inter-Services Public Relations Directorate (ISPR) - the media wing of the Bangladesh Armed Forces - said the two army chiefs discussed the existing bilateral ties and future cooperation for the progress of the two countries.

"The Indian Army chief's visit is expected to play an important role in promoting relations between Bangladesh and India," the statement added.

He also interacted with Lt Gen Waker-Uz-Zaman, Principal Staff Officer, Armed Forces Division, and discussed aspects of mutual interest.

The Indian Army chief visited Bangladesh in July last year on his first foreign visit after assuming charge of the top post.

Gen Pandey laid a wreath at Shikha Anbarab and paid tributes to soldiers who laid down their lives for the Liberation of Bangladesh.

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".

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

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

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 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 conditions 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.

Odisha train crash: Rail Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw holds high-level meetings

ODISHA: Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, who returned to Delhi from Balasore in Odisha after reviewing the rescue and restoration work following the triple train accident, is holding a series of high-level meetings with officials in Delhi on Tuesday.

After meeting senior Railway Board officials in the morning, Vaishnaw is now meeting general managers (GMs) and divisional railway managers of zonal railways. The virtual meeting which began at around 5 pm is expected to take a couple of hours to finish, sources said.



Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw (left) with officials during a meeting.

In the meeting with the Railway Board officials, the minister instructed officials to draw out plans to make the railway network completely tamper proof from external elements, they said. On Monday, the Railway Board had issued instructions to all GMs to ensure that the protocol around the signalling systems are made tamper-proof. The train accident in Balasore involving Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express and Shalimar-Chennai Central Coromandel Express, which were carrying over 2,500 passengers, and goods train laden with iron ore

occurred around 7 pm on Friday near Bahanga Bazar station in Balasore, about 250 km south of Kolkata and 170 km north of Bhubaneswar.

At least 278 people were killed and more than 900 were injured in the accident. Sources indicate that an initial probe into the incident has revealed not just a "signalling interference", but also a likely human negligence whereby the door of the relay room where the signalling system is installed, had been kept open. However, this has not been confirmed by officials here.

At least USD 900 000 stolen by employees of US-based aid group operating in Congo

DAKAR (SENEGAL), JUN 6: An American-based aid group said that at least USD 900,000 was stolen from its Congo programs by members of the organisation who conspired with outsiders.

GiveDirectly said that it learned that people on its Congo team worked with people outside the organisation to defraud the cash transfer programme, diverting aid from more than 1,700 impoverished

families over six months, starting in August 2022.

"This fraud was only possible because of a specific change we made in our payment process in order to work in this remote, insecure region of (Congo)," according to the statement from Monday.

"We feel deep regret for not catching this sooner and take seriously the vulnerabilities it exposed," it said.

GiveDirectly said that an

investigation is ongoing and that it was able to recover "a very small portion of the lost funds", but the majority of the USD 900,000 will likely be "unrecoverable".

But the group is working to ensure that families impacted by the fraud get their money. More than 1 per cent of money disbursed last year was lost to fraud, the highest amount to date, GiveDirectly said. Eastern Congo, where

the group operates, has experienced conflict for decades.

About 120 armed groups are fighting in the region mostly for land and control of mines with valuable minerals, while some groups are trying to protect their communities.

More than 5.5 million people are displaced in Congo, and more than 26 million are facing hunger, according to the United Nations.

Shri Amarnath ji Yatra arrangements 2023 discussed at Udhampur

JJ NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, JUNE 06: To discuss the arrangements for forthcoming Shri Amarnath ji Yatra 2023 in the District Udhampur, Deputy Commissioner, Sachin Kumar Vaishya convened a meeting of functionaries of stakeholder departments here in the Conference Hall DC Office Complex.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Dr Vinod Kumar; Additional District Development Commissioner, Ghan Shyam Singh; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Joginder Singh Jasoria; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Rafiq Ahmed Jaral; Chief Planning Officer, Mudassar Yaqoob Zargar, ACD, Dr Ranjeet Kotwal and district Heads of line departments, besides representatives of Beopar Mandal attended the meeting.



Detailed deliberations were held on the arrangements which include establishment of lodgement centres, Setting up of langers, Medical facilities, Drinking water facilities, provision of Electricity, Installation of temporary and fabricated toilets, Sanitation, Traffic management, Security arrangements, Setting up of control room, Checking of rates, Installation of departmental stalls, Deployment of magistrates, constitution of Coordination Committees, Emergency Resp-onse Mechanism, Installation of signage boards etc.

The DC emphasized upon the functionaries to maintain close

inter-departmental coordination for the smooth conduct of the yatra. Nodal officers were asked to visit their respective lodgement centres and furnish detailed report on availability of electricity, water, clean space, toilet facility as per devised format.

The CMO was directed to make provision of medical facilities from Tikri to Chenani stretch on the NH-44 and prepare health plan. The Executive Engineer Jal Shalati department was directed to also start to provide water supply to all the transit locations, while PDD was asked to make all necessary arrangements for providing electricity supply to the lodgement centres/langers round the clock.

The Executive Officer MC was directed to start installation of pre fabricated toilets, while Nodal officers were asked to visit and check availability of the toilets

and ensure cleanliness in and around the lodgement centres.

The E.O MC was asked to prepare a list of Safakarmanchies who shall sanitize toilets camps. Besides, SSP traffic was asked to make adequate deployment of police personnel at the main chowks and at congestion points for the smooth passage of yatra. SSP Udhampur was asked to ensure adequate security arrangements by deploying police personnel/lady police at vulnerable locations/lodgement centres/transit camps/langers sites. The Tourism department was directed to install signboards at the entry point in Kali Mata Temple Phallata, Gole Mela Chowk, Jakhani and Chenani, besides District Documentation NRLM was asked to make preparations for installation of departmental stalls at identified locations.

Tariq Zargar visits Shopian; participates in PMAY (G) camps

Takes stock of public grievances, demands

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SHOPIAN, JUNE 06- Secretary in Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj, Tariq Ahmad Zargar, today visited Heerpora, Manloo and other panchayats of Shopian district and participated in camps held under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin (PMAY G) besides taking stock of public demands and grievances regarding the scheme.

Tariq Zargar said that PMAY-G is centre's flagship housing entitlement scheme which aims to address the housing problems of poor populace. It addresses the rural housing shortage and bridges the housing deficit in rural areas of India, contributing significantly towards mission of "Housing for All". This year about 2 lakh housing units have been targeted to be completed in the UT, he informed.

Secretary in RDD apprised that the PMAY special camps are being organised in Panchayats across the UT in order to register beneficiaries on the spot. He added that the process of registration, documentation shall be done during these camps and deserving families are going to be benefited in a significant number with more easier procedures.

Among others, the camps were attended by ACD, Shopian, Hilal Ahmad Jiri, ACP Shopian, Manzoor Ahmad, Block Development Officers and other concerned officials besides and locals and PRI members.

VC DDC Kupwara lays foundation stone of WSS Kawari-Harden-Siver

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA, JUNE 06: Vice Chairman District Development Council (DDC) Kupwara, Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir Monday laid the foundation stone of the Water Supply Scheme Kawari-Harden-Siver in Kharhuma area of Lolab under Central government's prestigious flagship programme 'Jal Jeevan Mission'.

The project, estimated to cost Rs 378.60 crore, will include 60000-gallon capacity Reservoir at Kawari, 120000 Gallon capacity Rapid Sand filtration plant at Harden and 38000 gallon Reservoir at Harden. This prestigious project is aimed to benefit a population of around 800 souls of Siver, Harden and Kawari villages. With the commencement of this project, the water shortage issue in the area is expected to be mitigated to a considerable extent.

The project is a significant milestone in the government's efforts to provide clean drinking water to every household, as envisioned under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

During the foundation stone laying ceremony, Vice Chairman, DDC Kupwara was accompanied by Chairman BDC Wavora, Choudhary Mohammad Rafiq Kataria; Executive Engineer PHE, other engineers of JJM besides local PRIs.

Awareness on Women Empowerment, BBBP & NMBA held at GHSS Khanshabudgam

JJ NEWS SERVICE

BUDGAM, JUNE 06: Under the banner of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM), the District Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW) a committed department of Social Welfare office Budgam today organised a day long awareness program at GHSS Khanshabudgam.

The programme was organised to aware students regarding the significant government initiatives viz. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) and Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) etc.

Recognizing the importance of these initiatives in promoting gender equality and combating substance abuse, DHEW raised awareness, driving action, and ensuring the success of these programs.

DHEW team also informed that these initiatives hold immense potential to bring about positive social change and transform lives.

Speakers also highlighted the initiatives of the government that are creating an environment where women can make choices and have control over their lives, access to opportunities, and the ability to influence and contribute to society about positive change and address the existing gender disparities and discrimination.

Weeklong programme under Mission LIFE concludes at KVK Gurez

JJ NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, JUNE 06: The weeklong programme aimed at connecting the powers of people for the protection of environment and teaching them to utilize it in a better way under mission LIFE (Life Style for Environment) concluded at KVK-Gurez with the celebration of World Environment Day on Monday.

Deliberating upon the weeklong events, Dr. Bilal Ahmed Bhat Head KVK-Gurez said that KVKs all across the country had been assigned different activities from the third week of May till June 05.

He informed that during the period various awareness, sensitization and illustrative activities including farmer interactions, trainings, debate and painting competitions of students, environment pledge, animal health check up and cleanliness drives to promote LIFE actions in agriculture as well as our day to day life were conducted by KVK-Gurez.

These events covered the farming community, students, teachers, youth, farm women and various Panchayat Raj Institute (PRI) members.

Debate and painting competitions among the students aimed at depicting their innovative thoughts and creativity were also held.

On this year's theme of the World Environment Day, 'Beat Plastic Pollution', a mega event was organized at Mountain Agriculture Research and Extension Station MARIS of the university at Izmarag.

BDO Gurez, SDO Sheer, husbandry, BDC Chairman, Panches and officers/officials of line departments and a large number of farmers were also present.

The participants were also sensitized on various hazards of plastic. About 400 persons also took LIFE pledge during this weeklong event.

Director Agriculture visits Kupwara, addresses Kisan Sampark Abhiyan at Wadipora

Says integrated farming has huge potential for sustainable agriculture economy in the region

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 06: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammed Iqbal today visited different areas of Kupwara district and took stock of agriculture scenario in the district.

During the visit, the Director inspected hi-tech poly houses at Handwara. He also reviewed the paddy nurseries in different villages of Kupwara district.

Addressing Kisan Sampark Abhiyan (under Holistic Agriculture Development Program) at Wadipora Handwara, the Director marked the importance of integrated farming for the area.

He said to the farmers that the geomorphic conditions of the concerned area are suitably conducive for the adoption of integrated way of cultivation. Chowdhury Iqbal assured the



farming community of every possible technical guidance from the department.

He asked the concerned offices to prepare DPRs for the implementation of various initiatives under HADP.

He asked the farmers to come forward and take benefit from all approved projects under HADP. Amid prevailing weather condi-

tions, the Director asked the farmers to follow the guidance and advisories by the department. He directed the concerned officers to closely monitor the agriculture activities in the area.

Director also met a number of farmer delegations and took feedback from them regarding the implementation of different programs by the department.

NIPUN BHARAT MISSION takes Center Stage in Doda with Janbhagidari events

JJ NEWS SERVICE

DODA, JUNE 06: DIET Doda, in collaboration with CEO Doda, and Pratham Doda, kicked off a series of Janbhagidari Events to promote the 'NIPUN BHARAT MISSION'.

Today, a theme-based program

focusing on G20 and NEP 2020 held, featuring seminars, debates, and symposiums. The event witnessed active participation of thousands of students, teachers, and parents.

The speakers highlighted the goals and positive aspects of the New Education Policy 2020. The event

attracted a substantial turnout of participants, including students, teachers, and parents, who actively engaged in seminars, debates, and symposiums. The main objective of the event was to shed light on the goals and positive aspects of the New Education Policy 2020.

RDD starts registration for 15000 Awaas plus cases

ACD URGES BENEFICIARIES TO VISIT BLOCK LEVEL CAMPS FOR LISTING; CAUTIONS PEOPLE AGAINST IMPOSTERS

JJ NEWS SERVICE

DODA, JUNE 06: In wake of recent announcement of GOI about the sanctioning of 1007 target to the UT of J&K under Awaas plus, the Rural Development Department Doda has kick started the registration for around 15 thousand Awaas plus cases across the district.

Speaking to the media here at

a press conference, ACD, Phulail Singh said the process has been started under the overall guidance of District Development Commissioner, Vishesh Paul Mahajan.

He said that GOI and UT administration has accorded cent percent Awaas plus cases which is around 15000 for the beneficiaries of district Doda and according to the RDD Doda has started

special camps from June 4 to complete the process. He said the camps will continue till 10th of June 2023 at Panchayat and Block levels.

The ACD urged the beneficiaries to visit the block offices for registration before 10th of June with all codal formalities i.e. Aadhaar card, Ration card, revenue extract, Job card, self undertaking, bank copy, goataged pho-

tograph of existing house etc. He also cautioned the beneficiaries not to fall in the trap of persons indulging in corrupt practices.

He asserted that strict action will be taken against those found indulging in corrupt practices.

He said the financial assistance for the construction of houses will be credit to the beneficiaries' bank accounts through DBT mode.

The ACD said that apart from Rs 130000, the beneficiary will be provided 95 Wage days under MGNREGA, besides an amount of Rs 12000 as incentive for construction of IHHL unit on priority basis. Meanwhile, the ACD Doda also held online interaction with the PRIs of various blocks and urges them to mobilise the eligible beneficiaries for registration.

J&K Bank contributes 89% of credit disbursement in Bandipora during 2022-23

DDC CHAIRMAN, DC BANDIPORA JOINTLY CHAIR DLRC, DCC MEETING; REVIEW PERFORMANCE OF BANKS

JJ NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, JUNE 06: J&K Bank, the state's premier financial institution, alone has disbursed 89 percent of total credit amounting to Rs 459.86 crore among all the banks in district Bandipora for the financial year 2022-23. Lead District Manager J&K Bank, Shabir Ahmad Dar stated this during the meeting of District Consultative Committee (DCC) cum District Level Review Committee (DLRC) held at DC office Bandipora.

DDC Chairman Abdul Gani Bhat and Deputy Commissioner, Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad jointly chaired the meeting attended by district coordinators of all the banks, government departments and other development agencies.

Giving a complete break-up of the credit disbursed by various banks operating in the district, Dar said that all the banks operat-



ing in the district have extended a credit disbursement of 642.90 crores against the yearly target of Rs.1023.30 crore registering an achievement of 63 percent of the annual credit plan 2022-23 for

quarter ending March 2023. He informed that banks have disbursed an amount of Rs 326.95 Crores in priority sector against the annual target of Rs.895 crores registering 36 percent achieve-

ment while Rs.315.96 Crores have been disbursed in non-priority sector against the annual target of Rs.128 Crores witnessing 246 percent achievement. Lead District Manager further informed the

house that J&K Bank alone has disbursed Rs.239.00 crores under priority sector and 220 crores under Non priority sector aggregating to total credit of Rs 459.86 Crores showing an achievement of 89 percent contribution towards total credit disbursement in the district. On the occasion, DC Bandipora emphasized the need for improving the credit flow in Agriculture and allied sectors under the HADP plan. Besides, the credit flow in Renewable energy sector was also emphasized upon. The performance with respect to social security schemes under Mission Utkarsh was also discussed and the chair emphasized the need for roping in the people under social security schemes with joint coor-

ination of all concerned agencies. Besides reviewing the performance of Banks & Govt. departments under various schemes, the Chairman of DCC & DLRC meetings directed the line agencies to sponsor quality cases and the Banks for speedy disposal of Govt. Sponsored cases. Taking review of the performance of the banks and the government departments under various schemes, Dr Owais stressed on the need to maintain cooperation, coordination and cohesion between the banks and the sponsoring agencies to achieve the set targets for development, progress and eradication of unemployment.

The meeting was also attended by Intizar Ahmad Asst director Planning, Zubair DDM, NABARD and District Coordinators of all the Banks, Govt. departments and other development agencies.

World Environment Week celebrations commence at S.P. College, Srinagar

J1 NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 06: The celebration of World Environment Week on the theme 'Solutions to Plastic Pollution' being organized by PG Department of Environmental Science commenced at S.P. College, Srinagar.

Prof. (Dr.) Ghulam Jeelani Qureshi, Principal of SP College inaugurated the weeklong programme and highlighted the issues related to plastic pollution.

Addressing the student community, he called for a responsible role in spreading the awareness about effects of plastic pollution among the common masses.



The highlight of the day was the invited talk by Dr. Khalid Muzamil Gani, Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, National Institute of Technology, Srinagar in which

he addressed about the statistics of the generation of Plastic production, and its effects and gave an extensive research solution to the problem.

The programme Coordinator,

Prof. Shahid Ahmad Wani spoke about the major plastic pollution problems that the globe is facing today and gave a detailed overview of possible solutions.

Dr. Gowhar Hamid Dar, organizing secretary of the programme highlighted this year's theme on World Environment Day and gave a detailed perspective of global environmental initiatives available to combat plastic pollution menace. He gave a brief insight of the week-long programme scheduled to be carried out.

The event also included several interactive sessions, where students were encouraged to actively participate by presenting their

meaningful thoughts, through oral presentations on the theme 'solutions to plastic pollution.'

Efforts were made to encourage students to make small changes in their lives such as using eco-friendly products, reducing plastic waste, and conserving energy.

The presentations were evaluated by a panel of expert judges comprising Prof. Rooni Jan, Dr. Qazi Ashiq Hussain and Dr. Syed Javaid Ahmad Andrabi.

The day concluded with a pledge on "Lifestyle for Environment" which involved students and faculty administered by the Principal of the College under Mission Life.

Change of land use: DC B'pora chairs meeting of District Level Committee

J1 NEWS SERVICE



BANDIPORA, JUNE 06: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmed, who is also chairman District Level Committee for change of land use on Tuesday, convened a meeting of concerned committee members to discuss various cases of change of land use. A total of 08 cases were presented before the committee.

After threadbare discussion, the District Level Committee approved 06 cases, and rejected 02.

The DC directed the concerned departments to ensure timely issuance of No Objection Certificates after proper verification of documents and rules under land conversion regulations. The meeting was attended by ACR Bandipora as member secretary of the District Level Committee and other concerned members, including SDM Sumbal, Tehsildars, Ex'ns.

Inter Zone district level sports competitions conclude in Ramban

J1 NEWS SERVICE



RAMBAN, JUNE 06: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Ramban organized a series of exhilarating sports activities as part of the Annual calendar. The events showcased the paramount energy and enthusiasm of the youth, further promoting the spirit of sportsmanship and healthy competition.

Inter Zone district level sports competition for u/14 & u/17 Boys in the discipline Kabaddi, Kho-Kho and Volleyball, was successfully conducted today here in the District Police Lines. Deputy Commissioner, Musarat Islam was the chief guest. Chief Planning Officer, Kasturi Lal, Dy. DDO Lal Chand, DYSSO Dharanveer Singh, ZPEO Banihal, Khari and others were also present on the occasion.

The competition witnessed the participation of 343 young players representing 6 zones of the district.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner advised the participating students to maintain team spirit, cooperation and coordination while participating in the sports competitions. He said that these skills learned during the sports activities also help in different phases of life, like in academics or future career. The DC further said that the youth of Ramban are talented and can excel in any field. The young players displayed exceptional skills and determination throughout the event, which culminated with a grand medal ceremony, felicitating the meritorious student players for their outstanding performances by the dignitaries. In Kabaddi u/14 winner up Ukhral zone and Khari remains Runner up in Kabaddi U/17 winner up zone Ramban and Runner up Batote zone. In discipline Kho-Kho u/14 winner up Ramban zone and Runner up was Khari In volleyball u/17 winner zone Ramban and runner up zone Banihal besides U/14 winner zone Banihal and runner up zone Ukhral.

NMBA: Awareness cum education programme held at Anantnag

J1 NEWS SERVICE



ANANTNAG, JUNE 06: Awareness cum education programme under the aegis of Nasha Mukhti Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) and Good pharmacy practices was today organised by Drug Control Authorities Anantnag in collaboration with Chemists and Druggists Association Kokernag.

During the programme, chemists of the area were sensitized regarding the basic principles, guidelines and SOPs of Good pharmacy practices by Drug Control Officers of Anantnag and Kulgam Districts.

Chemists in general were educated regarding the warning signs and red-flag indicators of substance and Drug Abuse and their ill effects.

Later, chemists pledged an oath regarding the responsibilities and duties of a Good pharmacist.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Anantnag and Deputy Drug Controller Kashmir Division emphasized upon the chemists to work with zeal and enthusiasm for the betterment of patient care.

They mandated the chemists to keep proper vigil on every suspicious addiction related activity and bring the same in the knowledge of law enforcement agencies.

Deputy Drug Controller Kashmir also instructed the chemists to share responsibilities of one and all to contribute in eradication of drug and substance abuse.

They were further directed to dispense the pharmaceutical preparations with addition liability inconsonance with the duly signed and marked prescriptions of the medical practitioners.

Director Agriculture Kashmir monitors physical & financial progress on the CAPEX under HADP

Directs officers to work in close coordination with the representatives of PRIs

J1 NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 06: To review the physical and financial progress on the implementation of Capex budget (scheme wise/district wise), Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal today chaired a meeting of officers of the department at the Agriculture Complex Lalmandi Srinagar.

Addressing the meeting, Director Agriculture highlighted the importance of effective and timely utilization of funds for the welfare and well-being of the farming community of the region. He asked the officers to maintain accountability and transparency during all the levels of expenditures and submit the utilization certificate immediately on all the schemes.

While talking about the application to be processed by the farmers, all the officers were directed to make the farmers aware about the projects and help them to apply through dashboard for availing benefits under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) so that the deliverables for the year 2023-24 under the HADP shall be achieved.

Director Agriculture laid emphasis on lavender cultivation and directed officers for distribution of 15 lac stems of the lavender among the beneficiaries so that area expansion under the crop shall be achieved. He impressed upon the officers to put in all the efforts for the successful implementation of farmers friendly schemes.

DC Ganderbal reviews arrangements for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2023 via Baltal axis

J1 NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL, JUNE 06: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyamir today convened a meeting of all concerned district officers to review arrangements for the smooth conduct of Annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SAJY), 2023 via Baltal axis.

At the outset, detailed discussion was held regarding the preparations and arrangements by different departments at various locations including transit camp Manigam, base camp Baltal, Dammal, Railpathri and other halt stations. The meeting

held threadbare discussion on various ongoing works and arrangements including provisions of water and electricity, Medicare facilities, sanitation, drainage, registration of service providers, public conveniences, firewood, stock positioning of essential commodities, flood protection works and other related arrangements.

The officers from all concerned departments apprised the DC about preparations and progress of works being executed at several locations with regard to Yatra. While reviewing the arrangements, the DC main-

tained that the District Administration is committed to provide best facilities to the Yatries during the Yatra period and directed officials to ensure better planning and coordination among the departments at all levels so that all preparations are completed on time. While reviewing the status of public conveniences/toilets, he exhorted upon the ACD for maintaining sanitation and cleanliness and sufficient public convenience/ toilets at base camp Baltal and other halting places of Yatries besides en route to the Holy Cave.

Rs 16.15 lac distributed among dependents/ legal heirs of 08 deceased construction workers at Kulgam

RS 16.09 LAC ALSO RELEASED TO 355 CASES AS ASSISTANCE FOR EDUCATION

J1 NEWS SERVICE

KULGAM, JUNE 06: Under Death, Funeral Assistance, the Labour Department Kulgam provided assistance of Rs.16.15 lac among the dependents/legal heirs of the eight deceased construction workers at mini-secretariat, here. Cheques to the tune of the said amount were distributed among the dependents/legal heirs of the eight

deceased construction workers as death & funeral assistance by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat. On the occasion, payment amounting to Rs.16.09 lac was also released to 355 cases as assistance for education. The DC applauded the department for providing education assistance to the wards of the concerned workers and added that such endeavors will help them realize their career goals.

Distt Admin Kupwara reaches out to fire victims of Kachama

IMMEDIATE INTERIM ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO 3 FIRE AFFECTED FAMILIES

J1 NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA, JUNE 06: The District Administration Kupwara has provided immediate assistance to the three fire affected families of Kachama area of Kupwara where two residential houses were gutted in a devastating fire incident on Monday.

On the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Dr. Doifode Sagar Dattatraya a team of District Administration, Kupwara headed by Tehsildar Kupwara visited Kachama on Monday to provide immediate assistance to the three fire affected families whose houses were completely gutted in a massive fire incident.

The team of District Administration provided immediate interim assistance in the

form of Rs. 25000, 3 Kitchen sets, 3 Tarpaulins, 15 blankets, 6 clothing pairs, 6 bedding pairs and other necessary items among the affected families. Meanwhile, the DC has expressed sorrow over the loss of the property and has also expressed sympathy with the affected families and assured the fire sufferers of all possible support from Administration.

The DC had directed concerned Tehsildar to assess the loss of property and recommend the case for relief under SDRF norms Dr. Sagar has appealed to the general public to follow all precautionary measures while handling inflammable household items, electric/electronic gadgets, LPG cylinders and other appliances being used for cooking purposes to avoid such fire incidents.

World Environment Week-2023 celebrations conclude at Amar Singh College

SPEAKERS LAID EMPHASIS ON 'LIVE FOR ENVIRONMENT'

J1 NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 06: The World Environmental Week and Mission LiFE for Environment 2023 celebrations concluded with an impressive valedictory function held at Amar Singh College.

The function was presided over by Principal, Amar Singh College, Prof. (Dr) Sheikh Ajaz Bashir while as Prof. Bashir Ahmad Rather, Former Principal, Amar Singh College, graced the occasion as chief guest.

Prof. Ajaz in his laconic valedictory address impressed upon the need of eradication and immediate stoppage of single use plastic and other substances causing threat to the environment. He added that a pollution free environment is the basis of a healthy society. He while highlighting the role of youth in environment

conservation encouraged the youth particularly the student community for greater participation in the environmental awareness and abatement of hazardous substances, which ultimately result in the pollution of the environment. Prof. Ajaz was all praise for the role and contribution of students during the weeklong celebrations and maintained that the student rally and distribution of biodegradable carry bags has left impressive footprints on the society. He further congratulated the entire organizing team for a successful programme.

Prof. Bashir the chief guest on the occasion, spoke at length about the importance of a healthy environment and pointed out the threats to the environment. He maintained that immediate steps towards afforestation, green initiatives and use of biodegradable

substances, check and balance on the air pollution causing industries and automobiles besides water pollutants and other environmental friendly steps can still play a significant role in the environmental conservation before we cease to exist.

During the weeklong celebrations kick-started on June 1st, many activities related to the programme were held which include student rallies, cleanliness drives, Inter-College and Inter-School Painting Competition, Exhibition, Nukad Natak and much more, all reflecting and depicting the importance of healthy environment.

A large number of student participants from different colleges and schools participated in the events and sent their message through their impressive presentations.

Beat the Plastic Pollution: GDC Kishtwar, RDD promote World Environment Day theme

J1 NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, JUNE 06: Block Development Office Kishtwar in collaboration with Government Degree College Kishtwar celebrated World Environment Day with the theme 'Beat the Plastic Pollution' under the banner of Mission LiFE "Life Style for Environment". The event commenced with a welcome address by Prof. Sonika Sen (NSS P.O).

The programme was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Sham Lal, BDC Chairman Kishtwar Suresh Sharma, DDC member Kishtwar Zakir Hussain Butt, besides ACD, Sunil Bhutyal, College Principal, Dr. Jyoti Parihar; Block Development officer Sumeet Singh District Officer, Pollution Control Committee, Mukesh

'PLASTIC LAO BAG LEJAO' CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED IN COLLEGE



Singh and EO, Municipal Council Ninad Sen and PRIs.

The speakers, including BDC Chairman, DDC member, ADDC, ACD, appealed to the college to utilise these types of platforms for garnering requisite information and taking proactive involvement for the realization of the government's resolve of

Swachh Bharat and Swasth Bharat Abhiyan. The goal of life is living in agreement with nature and being responsible to global indicators, the speakers vehemently highlighted in the event. Besides, the speakers also stressed on the need for the implementation of Plastic Waste Management rules in letter and

spirit. The BDO Kishtwar sensitized the students that the plastic typically used in bottles, bags, and food containers contains chemical additives such as endocrine disruptors, which are associated with negative health effects, including cancers, birth defects, and immune system suppression in humans and wildlife, thus posing a real threat and severe danger across food chains. Senior faculty members Dr. Tariq Hussain and Prof. M.M. Matto also graced the occasion with their presence. Approximately 100 participant actively took part in the event. Prof. Faisal Mushtaq and Students from the college, namely Abroo, Vasundhara, Salma, and Easha, delivered impactful speeches on World Environment Day besides

encouraged the audience to reduce the use of single-use plastic and promote green initiatives. Shweta, a student of GDC, recited a powerful poem, and Sahil performed a song to raise awareness. Later, the participants took the 'Life Pledge' to protect the environment. Jute bags were distributed in exchange for the plastic among the participants on the occasion. The programme ended with the vote of thanks by Lieutenant (Dr.) Madhu Bala (NCC ANO).

Meanwhile, on the direction of the College Principal, the faculty members Prof. Ajay, Prof. Mubina Bano, Prof. Randeep Kumar, and Prof. Vijay Chauhan, hosted students from Kidzee School and planted various varieties of Trees and plants on the college campus to celebrate World Environment Day 2023.

J&K Fencers and Footballers to feature in international events

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 06: The fencing duo of Vishal Thappar and Rishika Khajuria have made J&K proud by securing a place in the number of international events slated this year. While Vishal trained for almost ten years in the fencing center of J&K Sports Council at M.A Stadium and for the last two years he has been training at center NCOE Patiala. Both fencers have been honing their skills under the tutelage of Tshutu Lal, renowned fencing instructor of J&K Sports Council.

Rishika who is elated at her selection said that these are very prestigious tournaments and based on her performance in these events, she can improve her world ranking besides an opportunity to compete with the best players in the world will surely add invaluable experience to enhance my skills and techniques.

Perennially the Fencing Association of India (FAI) conducted the selection trials on 5th June for the Indian Fencing Team comprising of both Women and Men, to participate in the upcoming international events including the Senior Asian Championships scheduled to be held later this month in Wuxi, China, Senior World Championships slated for next month



in Milan, Italy, and Asian Games to be held in the month of September in Hangzhou, China. Prior to the selection trials, the fencing association had requested the respective departments and educational institutions to grant the fencers special permission for attending the trials. The fencers were put through a battery of combined selection trials for three competitions and had to submit medical fitness certificates mentioning the psychological status of the player as a prerequisite.

While congratulating the fencing duo, Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary of Youth Services & Sports said the hard work and dedication of star fencers has paid off with this remarkable feat. In his message to the fencers he said,

"Keep up the excellent work and strive for even greater achievements in future tournaments, your success is not only a source of pride for J&K but also an inspiration for youngsters everywhere." In his appeal to other athletes of the union territory, Sarmad Hafeez asked them to continue representing both J&K and the country with passion and integrity and show the world that we are second to none.

Seconding Sarmad Hafeez's opinion, Secretary J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gull said that the accomplishments of Vishal and Rishika are a reminder of the potential and talent that youngsters of J&K possess. They are a true inspiration for others and a testament to the power of hard work and dedication, she added. Gull said that J&K Sports Council will keep supporting and encouraging all others waiting in the wings to realize their potential and achieve even greater heights in their respective sporting careers. The exhilarated coach Tshutu Lal said that Fencing came to India as a sport in 1974 and was recognized by the sports ministry in 1997. In J&K administration has given a lot of support and much-needed attention to the sport and no wonder hard work coupled with facilities is paying off big time.

War against Drugs: Pledge ceremonies, rallies held in different Panchayats, educational institutions of Kupwara

JI NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA, JUNE 6: On the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Dr. Doifode Sagar Dattaryar, Pledge ceremonies and sensitization sessions were held in different Panchayat Halqas of Kupwara district during Gram Sabhas as part of War against drugs-Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan' (NMB). On the occasion participants including Men, Women, Youth, and PRIs would stay away from drugs and discourage use of drugs and substance abuse and ensure that Kupwara district becomes drug free. Participants pledged that they all stand together in war against drugs and substance abuse.

The aim of the pledge ceremonies was to sensitize the people about the harmful effects of drug abuse and rehabilitation strategies of district administration Kupwara. The pledge was administered during Gram Sabhas held in different Panchayat Halqas of block including Wavora, Drugmulla, Handwara, Magam, Haihama, Kalaros, Kern, Kralpora, Kupwara, Langate, Magam, Mawar (Qalamabad), Meelyal, Nutnoosa, Qadirabad, Qaziabad, Rajwar, Ramhal, Redi Chowkibal, Sogam, Teetwal, and Trehgam. Speakers on the occasion said that drug addiction is a grave concern for all especially among the younger generation and has detrimental impact

not only on the individual concerned but on the society as a whole. During the programme, people were also sensitized about environmental issues, role of the general public in its protection and preservation, cleanliness and hygienic sanitation practices in rural areas. RDD field functionaries and PRIs, were mobilized after the directions of Deputy Commissioner to conduct special gram Sabhas in all Panchayats of the district in first week of June to single out the gravity of matter through awareness programs, sensitizing common people and youth about harmful effects of substance abuse and rehabilitation options available in the district.

DC Baramulla kick-starts Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight at PHC Sheeri

JI NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA, JUNE 06: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar today kick-started Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight (IDCF) campaign at Primary Health Centre (PHC) Sheeri during the programme organized by District Health Society Baramulla. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Syed Sehrish thoroughly

explained the cause of diarrhoea among the children. She also explained about the precautionary measures and interventions and preparation of ORS at home and its uses. Elaborating further, the DC said that the ultimate aim of Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight 2023 is to achieve zero child deaths due to childhood diarrhoea. She complimented ASHA's and AWW for their vibrant role for achieving remark-

able role in decreasing EMR and IMR. Despite tremendous efforts by the health department to decrease the child mortality rate, diseases related to diarrhoea continue to be a major cause of death in children under the age of five, Dr Sehrish remarked. She asserted that the District Administration is committed to improve the health care services for the welfare of the general public.

Krishi Vigyan Kendra Ramban celebrates World Environment Day

JI NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, JUNE 06: Krishi Vigyan Kendra Ramban, (SKUAST Jammu) celebrated World Environment Day 2023 in its own premises, Government High School Dhalwas and Health & Wellness Centre, Dhalwas.

Many activities including Tree Plantation, distribution of tree Saplings among the Farming community, and conduct of Awareness Programs on importance of Natural Farming and Beat the Plastic Pollution were carried out. As many as 85 farmers and a large number of students participated in the event. All the participants took a pledge to save the Environment. Senior Scientist and Nodal Officer Krishi Vigyan Kendra Ramban Dr Raj Kumar Gupta delivered lectures on importance of Natural Farming and about the important pillars of Natural Farming as well as about how to beat the plastic pollution for the safety of environment and healthy life.

Power shutdown

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 06: Power Controller Kashmir has informed that, the power supply to Receiving Stations Narbal and Sanoor shall remain affected due to carry out Augmentation works of 33 Kv line on June 10 from 10 am to 5 pm. Similarly, in order to carry out erection of 51 poles the power supply to receiving stations Sangam-I, Sangam-II, Tra-I, Tra-II, Awantipora, Airport and Narwar shall remain affected on June 12 and 13 from 10 am to 4 pm. Likewise, in order to carry out Evacuation of Power from Delina GSS the power supply to receiving stations Delina, Jetty and Spore 2nd shall remain affected on June 08, 12 and 14 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Similarly, in order to carry out Twinning/ Stabilization and branch cutting of Tress the power supply to receiving stations Nowpora, Achabal, Seelo and Bonmat shall remain affected on June 07 and 10 from 9 am to 3 pm and receiving stations Pattan, Palhallan and Hamray shall remain affected on June 08 from 10 am to 3 pm.

All India Quiz on Financial Literacy held at GMS(B) Maitra

JI NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, JUNE 06: An All India Quiz on Financial Literacy, sponsored by RBI, was conducted here today in the Government Middle School Boys (GMSB) Maitra. As many as 22 schools of Zone Ramban participated in the quiz competition.

The competition was held under the supervision of Zonal Education Officer Ramban, Firdous Ahmed and in coordination with Responesent Development Services Centre for Financial Literacy.

The 1st Position was secured by Kajal Devi and Antriksh Gouria of Girls Middle School Chabba Halsool, the 2nd Position went to Anika Devi and Manisha Devi of Government High School Digidol and Akshat Singh and Chandra Aditya Singh of Government Middle School Neera, while the 3rd Position were clinched by Poonam Thakur and Akriti Devi of Government Middle School Dighoge and Ranjeet Singh and Ashok Kumar of Government High School Ganote.

DLSA-Kulgam organises Awareness session on rights of persons at Pre-arrest/ arrest & remand

JI NEWS SERVICE

KULGAM, JUNE 06: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Kulgam under the leadership of Chairman DLSA Kulgam, Mohammad Ashraf Bhat today organised a meeting of SHO's and held an awareness programme regarding rights of persons at Pre-arrest/arrest and remand.

Resource Person Muneer Ahmad Bhat, Additional Special Mobile Magistrate Kulgam, deliberated upon various aspects of the topic.

Meeting was also attended by Additional District & Sessions Judge Kulgam, Additional Special Mobile Magistrate Kulgam and all the SHO's and Chowki Officers of District Kulgam.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

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

Tender No.	Name of Work	App. Cost (in Rs.)	Bid Security (in Rs.)	Completion Period	Opening of Tender	Website Particulars
251-Elect-1.08/2023-24	Electrical work in connection with Repair, overhauling of electrical equipments in HT substation and water treatment plants in Kashmir valley of Firozpur division.	1197308.33	24000.00	04 Months	30.06.2023 after 15.00 Hrs.	www.reps.gov.in
251-Elect-1.05/2023-24	Electrical work in connection with Provision of RGM/Track Machine siding over Firozpur Division.	11769171.55	209800.00	06 Months	28.06.2023 after 15.00 Hrs.	www.reps.gov.in
251-Elect-1.06/2023-24	Electrical work in c/w Construction of 20 seeded barrack for disaster management, Ticket Checking Squad & Training Facilities at Luchhiana Under ADE/NDL/DH. Electrical work in connection with Re-Development of old bores and provision of new tube wells and replacement of MS overhead Tank with SMS tank at Luchhiana station and colony area under ADE/NDL/DH.	1561385.20	31200.00	06 Months	28.06.2023 after 15.00 Hrs.	www.reps.gov.in

Tender No.: 251-Elect/Notice No. 04-Elect/2023-24 Dt. 06.06.2023 173223

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) CONST. DIVN. NO. I, JAMMU
SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Short e-NIT No. CD-1/28 of 2023-24 Dated 02-06-2023

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

S. No.	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost (in la)	Cost of document (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Time allowed for complete work	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Position of AAA :- Accorded vide Order No. 208 of 2023 dated 31-05-2023
Major Head of Account :- Under AMRUT

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	03-06-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 03-06-2023 to 14-06-2023, 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	06-06-2023 at 1300 Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. 1 Jammu
4	Bid submission Start Date	03-06-2023
5	Bid Submission End Date	14-06-2023 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	15-06-2023 on or after 1400 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. 1 Jammu
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to 0599 (Revenue) favouring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. 1 Jammu. Bidders have to submit the same Treasury challan/receipt, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FR/BC pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. 1 Jammu. The CDR/FR/BC shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of LI be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. 1 Jammu at the time of allotment.
- The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder need not to make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential-submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jtenders.gov.in](http://jtenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The (R&B) bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. 1 Jammu. The date for same shall be intimated separately.

SD -
(ER, K.K. ATRI)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PWD (R&B) CONST. DIV. NO. 1
JAMMU

DIJ/277/23

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI MECH. DIVISION NORTH JAMMU
e-mail: xennorth@gmail.com
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No. 89 of 2023-24

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

S. No.	Name of work	Cost of document/ tender fee (in Rs.)	Earnest money	Validity of Rates	Bid validity
1.	Providing, installation, testing and Commissioning of CCTV Cameras, alongwith accessories and allied works at 18 Nos. CPS / Tube wells of Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu including, Taw Lift Hourly, Filtration Plant, Intakes and CPS at Site.	500/-	02% of the Quoted amount	180 days	180 days

Date of Publishing : 05-06-2023 (04.00 pm).

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jtenders.gov.in> from 05-06-2023 (04.00 pm).
- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jtenders.gov.in> from 10-06-2023 (04.00 pm) to 26-06-2023 (04.00 pm).
- The complete bidding process will be online <http://jtenders.gov.in>. A pre-bid meeting shall be held in the office of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu on 09-06-2023 (1.00 pm) for any clarification and other information required by the bidders who intend to participate in the tender.
- The Technical bids received shall be opened online on 27-06-2023 (04.00 pm) or any other subsequent date in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division North Jammu.
- The Financial bid of the bidders shall be opened online after scrutinizing the technical bid in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the offer cannot be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- Cost of bidding document in shape of e-challan/single window challan of JMC pledged to Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu/tender fee receipt through online payment through the JMC link <http://www.jmcjammu.org/online-payment.html>
- The original instruments in respect of cost of document, EMD in the shape of CDR/FR and other relevant document of LI bidder will be required to be submitted to the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu after opening of financial bids on line. No separate intimation about opening of financial bids will be sent by this office / by the tender opening authority. In case the original documents are not submitted by the LI bidder opening of financial bid, A tender will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further / future tendering process in the division for a period of one year.
- The date and time of opening of financial bids will be notified on website <http://jtenders.gov.in> and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.
- The original documents when submitted by LI bidder for the cost of tender documents, specified in the tender document should be same as uploaded on line (Scanned copies) otherwise allotment will not be issued, the tenders will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further / future tendering process in the division for a period of one year.
- Bid security of successful tenderer will have to be in form of CDR/FR of any scheduled bank and shall have to be valid for 180 days after last date of receipt of Bid.
- The bid for the execution of work shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the earnest money of the firm shall stand forfeited.
- The tenderers are advised to visit the site of work / inspect the parts to be fabricated before uploading their tenders so as to acquaint themselves with exact measurement and site conditions.
- Special conditions as per Finance Department order No. OM A/24 (2017)-651 dated 07-06-2018.**
 - Furnishing of hard copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as L-1 after opening of financial bids.
 - The cost of tenders should be collected by introducing e-challan or simply uploading a copy of necessary challan / receipt.
 - Similarly, instead of insisting on actual cash deposit receipt, a copy of same duly pledged to the concerned department should be uploaded by the tenderers. However, before allotting the work or issuing the supply order, the original CDR/FR should be obtained and kept on record.
- Other details, instructions and terms and conditions can be seen / downloaded from the bidding document.

ISMDU/1261-63
Dated: 03-06-2023

DIJ/1-2791/23

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
JAL SHAKTI MECH. DIVISION NORTH
JAMMU

Lt Governor chairs 4th J&K UT Wildlife Board meeting

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 06: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha chaired the 4th meeting of Wildlife Board for the UT of J&K, today at Civil Secretariat.

The meeting was attended by Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Sh. Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary, Forest Department; Sh. A.K. Choudhary, Special DG (Crime) and Sh. Roshan Jaggi, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests.

The Lt Governor congratulated the officers and other stakeholders on the declaration of Shalabugh and Hygam as Ramsar Sites. With this development, the Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir ranks 4th in the country in terms of largest network of wetlands.

He lauded the efforts to conserve and protect precious wildlife of J&K UT and called for



proper utilization of natural resources, promotion of trekking routes, and strategy for effective and efficient mitigation of human-wildlife conflict.

The Lt Governor directed for taking proactive steps to protect wildlife and its habitat.

Greater coordination among the stakeholders must be ensured to dismantle the nexus of poachers, he added.

"Integrated development of wildlife habitats should be our

top priority. Our efforts must focus on strengthening ecological integrity, and conservation of priceless resources through people's participation," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor also appraised the action taken on the directions passed in the previous meeting.

Sh. Suresh Gupta, PCCC/Chief Wildlife Warden gave a detailed overview of the significant achievements made in pro-

OUR EFFORTS MUST FOCUS ON STRENGTHENING ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY, CONSERVATION OF PRICELESS RESOURCES THROUGH PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION: LG SINHA

LG LAUDS THE EFFORTS TO CONSERVE AND PROTECT PRECIOUS WILDLIFE OF J&K UT

CALLS FOR PROPER UTILIZATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES, PROMOTION OF TREKKING ROUTES AND STRATEGY FOR EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT MITIGATION OF HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT OF WILDLIFE HABITATS SHOULD BE OUR TOP PRIORITY: LG TO OFFICERS

tection and conservation of wildlife and their habitats.

The Board also discussed the development of city forests in Jammu and Srinagar, and accorded approvals to several agenda points including developing amenities for travellers along Mughal road. A publication on "Hargul Population Monitoring Exercise, 2023" was also released on the occasion.

Dr. Parag Nigam; Dr. Avtar

Kaur and Dr. Kumar Ambrish - Representatives of Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun; Zoological Survey of India; Sh. Nazir Benazir, President National Society on Water Resources, Wetland and Forests; J&K, besides Eminent Conservationists, Ecologists, Environmentalists, and other board members also attended the meeting.

JKPCC conducts Public Hearing at Kharah Balli

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 06: A Public Hearing was today organised by JKPCC for mining Blocks 5/29, 5/31 and 5/33 situated at Kharawali Khad, Kharah Balli. The Public Hearing was conducted in terms of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India.

The panel of Public Hearing was headed by Harvinder Singh, Additional DC Jammu with Dr. Gulshan Kumar, District Mineral Officer, Jammu, Bader Hussain, Divisional Officer PCC Udhampur representing Regional Director Jammu and Anil Sharma, Divisional Officer, Pollution Control Committee, Jammu North. Harvinder Singh, Additional DC Jammu listened patiently to the issues raised during the public hearing and said that it is the endeavor of the government to ensure that the mining activity is carried out as per guidelines of the Mining department and assured the gathering that mining will be allowed to be carried out in legal, scientific and transparent manner only. He said that the purpose of conducting the public hearing is to hear the views of the people of surrounding areas regarding the renewal of EC of the existing three blocks. He also assured that all the important points raised by the people during the public hearing are recorded and sent to Competent Authority i.e. JKELAA for consideration so that those issues are appropriately addressed before the grant of Environmental Clearance.

Anil Sharma, Divisional officer, PCC Jammu North, in his opening address apprised the general public that it is the endeavor of the government to ensure that the mining activity is carried out in a scientific manner. He stated that for river bed mining projects, having an area more than 5 ha, requires mandatory Public Hearing before renewal of Environmental Clearance. He said that the purpose of conducting the public hearing was to hear the views of the people of surrounding areas regarding the mining block for renewal of Environmental Clearance. Dr. Gulshan Kumar, DMO Jammu informed that the current public hearing is for the grant of renewal of EC for three blocks. He also responded to the queries raised by the public during the proceedings. Bader Hussain, Divisional Officer, Pollution Control Committee, Udhampur representing Regional Director, JKPCC Jammu, also briefed the public about the importance of conducting Public Hearing and role of JKPCC.

Div Com Jammu reviews land issues of Industries department

DCs asked to resolve bottlenecks on priority; DICs instructed to stay in touch with District administrations

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 06: Divisional Commissioner, Jammu Ramesh Kumar today reviewed the establishment of Industrial Estates in the Districts and the land related issues of the Industries & Commerce Department.

The Div Com reviewed in detail the land acquisition for industrial Estates in Kathua, Samba and Jammu districts and



bottlenecks being faced by the stakeholder Departments.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Avny Lavasa, Chief Engineer Irrigation & Flood Control,

Manoj Gupta, besides Senior Officers of SIDCO, SICOP. Deputy Commissioners of Kathua and Samba along with other concerned officers attended the meeting through video

conferencing.

Threadbare discussions were held regarding further development of existing and development of new Estates, besides the progress made in resolving the issues related to the Industries Department pending in the districts.

The concerned Deputy Commissioner apprised the Div Com about the current status of each case. It was informed that most of the issues have been resolved and those pending would be resolved soon.

The Div Com instructed DCs to cooperate with the Industries Department in sorting out the pending land issues. The familiarities of Industries/ SICOP

were also asked to stay in regular touch with DCs and revenue officers to seek coordination for resolving the issues on time.

The Div Com instructed DC Samba, Kathua, Jammu and Udhampur to demarcate the identified land and hand over the same to the Industries and Commerce Department for establishment of Industrial Estates. The DCs were also instructed to resolve the land issues for approach roads to the sites. Meanwhile, the Div Com also reviewed the power supply, water supply, road to industrial estates. He instructed concerned DCs to ensure that all the facilities are available to industrial estates.

Delhi Wrestler Sumit lifts 58th Aghar Jitoo Kesari Dangal Title 2023

JJ NEWS SERVICE

KATRA, JUNE 06 : Wrestler Sumit Gujjar of Guru Hanuman Akhara, Delhi has lifted '58th Aghar Jitoo Kesari Dangal title 2023' by defeating wrestler Nadeem of Doda in the first main mulli bout that lasted for 12 minutes. Aghar Jitoo Kesari Dangal is organised at village Aghar Jitoo in Tehsil Katra District Reasi on the last day of the three day historic Mela held every year in the memory of the great revolutionary Farmer Baba Jitoo and Bua Kour.

ADC Reasi, Abdul Sattar was the chief guest, who gave away cash prizes to the wrestlers. Shiv Kumar Sharma, President J&K Indian Style Wrestling Association and Senior Vice President Indian Style Wrestling Association of India presided over the function. Naib Tehsildar Katra Ashok Kumar and Jugul Kishore Sharma (Bunty) prominent social



activist and leading businessman of Delhi were the guests of honour.

Dangal was organized by Aghar Jitoo Dangal Committee in association with J&K Indian Style Wrestling Association under the overall supervision of former Joint Secretary J&K State Sports Council, Shiv Kumar Sharma.

The bouts were officiated by Naresh Kumar (Pappu Lakari), Om Parkash Verma, Tulinder Kumar, Raj Singh, Pawan Kumar and Nazir Ahmad.

Wrestler Sumit, the winner of 1st mulli bout was

awarded with cash prize of Rs.15,000 along with traditional Gurj (Gadda) and Patta by chief guest Abdul Sattar, Shiv Kumar Sharma and Jugul Kishore Sharma (Bunty) while Nadeem got cash prize of Rs.10,000.

In all, 42 bouts were played the said dangand total Rs.2,00,000 was distributed as cash prizes among the wrestlers.

Jugul Kishore Sharma (Bunty) contributed Rs.30,000 as financial assistance to the organizers i.e prize money for the first mulli bout. Retd. Social

welfare officer Mohan Lal Kholi, contributed Rs.20,000 i.e prize money for the second main mulli and Rs.7,000 was contributed by Tripura Bala Sundrani Maha Durga Vaishno Mandir Aghar Jitoo.

2nd main mulli bout was won by wrestler Babba of Domana Akhara of Kot Bhalwal Jammu who defeated wrestler Vishal of Delhi. Winner Babba got Rs.10,000, while runner-up wrestler Vikas got Rs.10,000. Another second mulli bout was won by wrestler Surjit Singh of J&K Police of Reasi by defeating wrestler Ankush of Rohtak. Winner wrestler Surjit Dinger got Rs.10,000 while runner-up Ankush got Rs.8,000.

3rd mulli bout was won by wrestler Maam Hussain of Domel, who defeated wrestler Ali of Patti (Punjab). The winner wrestler Maam Hussain got Rs.8,000 while runner-up wrestler Ali got Rs.5,000.

DC Poonch presides over National Seminar on Drug De-addiction

JJ NEWS SERVICE

POONCH, JUNE 06: A drug de-addiction awareness programme was organised at Government Degree College Surankote in collaboration with Sir Syed Education mission (SOCH India) under the aegis Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan. The event was part of an awareness campaign of the college to prevent drug abuse.

Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Yasin M.Choudhary was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Prof. Khaleeq Zazi NSS program officer conducted the proceedings. Dr. Mohd. Ashfaq HOD Geography, as the key-note speaker delivered an expert talk on the "counselling a way forward to overcome drug addiction and make India drug free". He emphasized that the students must be counselled properly at various level so that they remain away from the drug menace.

Sub-Judge, Syed Wajahat Hussain Kazmi, threw light upon the dire consequences of drug addiction and emphasized the need for immediate action to combat this prevailing menace. With his vast experience in dealing with legal matters related to drug addiction, he offered valuable insights into the legal implications and ramifications associated with substance abuse.

DC in his enlightening speech elaborated on multitude of career opportunities available to graduating students, emphasizing their significance in deterring them from falling into the grip of drug addiction. He shared his insights on the severity of the drug addiction crisis. Bollywood actors Sarwar Mir and Inamul Haq who were also connected with the audiences virtually deliberated upon the issue and conveyed their message to students to stay away from drug addiction.

Expedite registration of service providers for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2023: Div Com Kashmir

DIRECTS OFFICERS TO SHARE UPDATED DATA WITH ALL STAKEHOLDERS TO AVOID ANY VARIATION

JJ NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUNE 06: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today convened a meeting of officers to review the registration of service providers for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2023, providing of mobile connectivity en-route to holy cave and proper demarcation of area at base camps and Holy Cave.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners of Anantnag and Ganderbal, Directors of Animal Husbandry, Kashmir & Jammu, Deputy Labour Commissioner, J&K; Additional CEO, SASB; Officers of Pahalgam Development Authority, Sonamarg Development Authority and Director, G.Max IT Services.

Reviewing the progress of registration of service providers including Porywallas, Pithuwallas, Dandwallas and others, Div Com directed Deputy Labour Commissioner to expedite the registration process of service providers so RFID cards can be issued to them simultaneously for smooth conduct of yatra.

He also directed the concerned for registration of eligible service providers before 15th June. Similarly, Officers of Animal Husbandry were also directed to complete the registration of Ponies at the earliest.

Further, he directed officers to share updated data with all stakeholders to avoid any variation during completion.

Meanwhile, Div Com directed Deputy Commissioners for clearing of tracks along both Pahalgam and Baltal axis besides asking them to ensure the mobile and internet services of Airtel, Jio and BSNL are available up to the holy cave.

Besides, he directed for completion of work on all bridges falling en-route the both axis to holy cave by 15th June.

Div Com further directed for installation of additional cameras, completion of installation of wire mesh and demarcation of areas for service providers.

District Level Inter Zonal Tournament for U 14 Boys, Girls held at Udhampur

JJ NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR, JUNE 06: District Level Inter Zonal Tournament for U 14 boys and girls in the disciplines of Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Volleyball and Wrestling was organised today by the Department of Youth Services and Sports here in Sports Stadium Udhampur.

The principal of the College, Prof. Minu Mahajan appreciated the team for organizing such an enlightening program which will definitely help the students to broaden their horizon and help them in setting their goals and roadmap ahead.

The program was well coordinated by the team members Prof. Suman Bala, Dr. Nidhi Suri, Prof. Abhinav Prof. Sugandha Mahajan and Prof. Pooman.

Anisha Kour of Sem.2 conducted the proceedings of the program. Vote of thanks was delivered by Prof.Sunita Kumari, member IIC.

GCW Gandhinagar organises Extension lecture on Women Entrepreneurship

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 06: Institution Innovation Club and Department of Computer Applications of Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government College for Women Gandhinagar, in Collaboration with department of Statistics & department of Commerce on Tuesday organised an Extension lecture on 'Empowering Women Entrepreneurship in Developing Economy' here in the College Auditorium.

Dr. Rohit Bhagat, Assistant Professor, TBS, Bhaderwah Campus, University of Jammu was the Resource Person on the



occasion. Prof. Anupama Sharma, Convener, Institutional Innovation Club welcomed the

Resource Person, Prof. Mamta Gupta, Dean Commerce & HOD Department of Commerce & Prof.

Mohinder Pal, HOD Department of Statistics; Prof. Rohit Gupta, HOD Computer Applications & member IIC and a galaxy of intellectuals and the students for this innovative enterprise.

Dr. Rohit deliberated upon the need of promoting women's entrepreneurship and how it will become a powerful vehicle to speed up economic growth, innovation, creativity and productivity. He disseminated the mantra of starting a business and remedies to solve problems.

The success stories of some famous women entrepreneurs and interaction of students with the Resource Person concluded

the lecture.

The principal of the College, Prof. Minu Mahajan appreciated the team for organizing such an enlightening program which will definitely help the students to broaden their horizon and help them in setting their goals and roadmap ahead.

The program was well coordinated by the team members Prof. Suman Bala, Dr. Nidhi Suri, Prof. Abhinav Prof. Sugandha Mahajan and Prof. Pooman.

Anisha Kour of Sem.2 conducted the proceedings of the program. Vote of thanks was delivered by Prof.Sunita Kumari, member IIC.